

U.S. curbs intelligence to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said on Friday it had placed some limitations on the intelligence it gives Israel since the arrest of U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard on charges of selling secrets to Israel. State Department spokesman Charles Redman declined to disclose details of what curbs had been imposed. "In the immediate aftermath of the Pollard case and pending a clear assessment of the scope of the (security) compromise, some discrete limitations were placed on selected intelligence exchanges with Israel," he said. "This was a logical and prudent step," he added. Redman said the curbs were still in force, and he declined to say how long they would continue. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage was quoted by the New York Times newspaper as saying a resumption of the normally close intelligence relations between the two countries could not occur until an American team now in Israel had finished its investigation of the Pollard case (See page 2).

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Center of Strategic Studies
READING ROOM

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Paris summit warns Libya

PARIS (R) — French and African leaders on Friday completed three days of informal talks dominated by the conflict in Chad, with host President Francois Mitterrand due to sum up the proceedings at a closing news conference. In a series of bilateral meetings before the final session of the 12th Franco-African summit, Mr. Mitterrand received President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic, where the French have military bases next door to Chad. French state television and the pro-government daily Le Matin reported on Friday that French planes from the Central African Republic had resumed reconnaissance flights over southern Chad following reports that Libya had recently built up its military strength in the north. Addressing his guests, Mr. Mitterrand warned Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi against any drive to the south. He also declared that France would never accept partition of Chad.

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Bomb explodes in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A small bomb exploded on Friday in West Jerusalem while being handled by remote-controlled equipment by the Israeli occupation authorities' bomb squad, police sources said. There were no injuries, the sources said. The bomb, apparently planted by resistance activists, was discovered aboard an Israeli bus which then stopped and was evacuated by its passengers, the sources said. The device went off while it was being lifted from the bus.

Renton visits Ashkelon, Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — British Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton began a four-day visit to Israel on Friday with trips to the Mediterranean town of Ashkelon and the occupied Gaza Strip. Mr. Renton, who arrived on Thursday from Lebanon and Syria, will meet Foreign Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other leaders after the weekend. Mr. Renton, appointed recently, is here to familiarise himself with the area.

U.S. envoy, Beirut official discuss UNIFIL contribution

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew conveyed to the Foreign Ministry on Friday a Congress decision to stop America's \$18-million contribution to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The state radio quoted Mr. Bartholomew as saying after a meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Fawzi Turki that Congress may still reconsider its decision to suspend financial aid to the 5,500-man, nine-nation peacekeeping force. Mr. Turki was reported to have told Mr. Bartholomew that his government was concerned that the congressional decision "has political implications as well."

Soviet navy chief meets Mzali, Arafat

TUNIS (R) — Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the new commander of the Soviet navy, had talks with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali on Friday, the official TAP news agency said. Admiral Chernavin, whose succession to veteran Sergei Gorchakov was announced in Moscow two days ago, arrived on Tuesday and has already seen Defence Minister Shakhmurov. He said he had had lengthy discussions with Mr. Mzali on the situation in the Mediterranean region and on bilateral issues, the agency reported. He also saw Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat on Friday.

French delegation heads for Tehran

PARIS (AP) — A four-member French parliamentary delegation left on Friday for Iran to try to improve relations between the two countries and seek information about four French hostages held in Lebanon and one detained in Iran. The delegation is led by Jean-Marie Duillet.

King Hassan II urges formation of Palestinian government-in-exile

PLO seriously considering proposal

By Lami K. Amoud
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — King Hassan of Morocco has sent a letter to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urging it to form a government-in-exile as "a prelude to the establishment of a permanent Palestinian government in the liberated occupied Arab territories," a senior PLO official said here on Friday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received the letter more than three weeks ago and the PLO leadership "seriously studied the issue during its meetings in Baghdad Nov. 20-26." The official did not reveal whether the PLO leadership had replied to King Hassan or not but said: "We are seriously considering the possible political dimensions of the idea but we have not taken any decision to that effect."

According to King Hassan's proposal the government-in-exile would lay the foundations for establishing the executive and legislative branches for a Palestinian government. The letter included a suggestion that the PLO Executive Committee Chairman may be named head of this government.

The Moroccan plan also envisages "a broader role for the pre-

sent Palestine National Council (PNC)," the official said but he did not disclose details. It was also not clear whether the envisaged government-in-exile as suggested by King Hassan would be parallel to the PLO or whether its members would be present PLO leaders. But well-informed Palestinian sources said that all previous similar Arab and foreign suggestions proposed the formation of a government-in-exile alongside the PLO.

The PLO official, however, said that the PLO leadership was not against the principle of forming a government-in-exile but that it would only take such a step "at the appropriate time."

He said the appropriate time would be "a step or two steps before the actual liberation of the occupied territories."

"The PLO Executive Committee is authorised to announce

such a step without referring to the PNC for approval when it finds that such a move is necessary," he said.

The Moroccan proposal was not the first of its kind and was preceded by many similar ones. But perhaps the most famous of these proposals were that made by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in 1975 when he suggested that the PLO announce the formation of a Tripoli-based and financed Palestinian government-in-exile and another by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1976 and 1977.

Although the issue of forming a government-in-exile has not surfaced as a major controversial issue in the Palestinian arena there definitely are clear opinions on its pros and cons which are discussed by PLO leaders and other Palestinians.

In general, there seems to be a consensus that the formation of a government-in-exile is almost an inevitability at a later stage in the PLO's struggle to restore the usurped Palestinian territories. Palestinian leaders cite the experiences of other national liberation movements, particularly the Algerian National Liberation Front, which took such a step immediately before starting final negotiations with the occupiers powers they were struggling against.

(Continued on page 3)

West Bank delegation to urge Arafat to accept 242 and 338

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of West Bank leaders is expected to arrive in Amman on Monday to appeal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to accept two key United Nations resolutions, well-informed sources said Friday.

The delegation will include former Gaza Mayor Rashad Al-Shawa, former Hebron Mayor Mustafa Al-Nashe, editor of the Jerusalem-based Al-Fajr newspaper Hanna Senjara and the publisher of Al-Shaab newspaper in Jerusalem, the sources said.

Mr. Nashe told Israeli Radio in an interview on Thursday that he was travelling to Amman to talk to Mr. Arafat about accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 on condition that the PLO is allowed to represent the Palestinians in an international peace conference.

Palestinian sources said here Friday that Mr. Arafat was not expected to be here before next week since he is scheduled to chair a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in Tunis on

Saturday and Sunday.

Al-Shaab publisher Mahmoud Abu Zafar confirmed on Thursday that he and 13 other leaders planned to travel to Amman on Monday to meet Mr. Arafat.

"We will ask Chairman Arafat for his views. If he does not give us an overriding reason why he cannot do it, we will ask him to state that he accepts Resolutions 242 and 338 in exchange for participation in Middle East peace talks," Mr. Abu Zafar told Reuters.

Mr. Abu Zafar said their acceptance would open the way for the PLO's participation in all diplomatic moves in the area.

The group must gain permission from the Israeli occupation authorities to meet Mr. Arafat in the East Bank, he said.

Newly-appointed Nablus Mayor Zafar Masri, former Jerusalem Governor Anwar Khatib, Tulkarin Mayor Hilmi Hanom, Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme and Nablus civic leaders Hikmat Masri and Basel Kanaan are also expected to be included in the delegation.

(Continued on page 3)

Cuban diplomat held after Madrid kidnap bid

MADRID (R) — A Cuban vice-consul, two embassy clerks and a Cuban professor were arrested on Friday by Spanish police after trying to kidnap a Cuban political refugee in central Madrid, a city government spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman identified the diplomat as Cuban Vice-Consul Angel Alberto Leon Cervantes and said he was carrying a nine-millimetre pistol.

She said the three other detainees were Abelardo Lopez Hernandez and Ramon Barroto Chavez, both Cuban embassy clerks, and Ventura Ventura Torrientes, a Cuban professor.

Lopez Hernandez was also carrying a gun when the four were arrested, she told Reuters.

The spokeswoman identified the exile as Manuel Antonio Sanchez Perez, 50, a political refugee.

Police said earlier the four men tried to bundle Sanchez into their car as he was leaving a bank in central Madrid, but he resisted until a police patrol car arrived.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters the government was studying the matter but declined

to say whether any diplomatic action would be taken immediately.

Cuban diplomats at the embassy here were not available for comment.

Witnesses told reporters the exile, who carried a briefcase, told them: "I carry very important documents. I don't care about the money."

They said three of the men managed to wrestle him into a car, but some 300 passers-by surrounded the vehicle and a taxi driver blocked its path until police arrived and arrested the four men.

Cuban exile sources said Sanchez Perez was a defector from the Cuban secret service, G-2.

They said he was not registered with either of the two relief agencies handling Cuban refugees in Spain.

But the city government spokeswoman, questioned on the report, told Reuters they could say only that Sanchez was a highly qualified technician who had been granted political asylum.

An Interior Ministry spokesman declined to comment.

Chinese foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived in Amman on Friday at the head of a Chinese delegation on a four-day official visit to Jordan, during which he is expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai.

Mr. Wu, who arrived here from Iraq, will hold talks on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nasur, Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajai Al Masri and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Fihem Al Khatib, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The Chinese minister will also meet with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and will visit a number of archaeological and historical sites in Jordan. The Chinese minister's visit to Jordan comes in response to an invitation by Mr. Masri.

In a statement to Petra, the Jordanian-Chinese relations and expressed hope that his first-ever visit to Jordan will result in further strengthening bilateral relations in all fields.

Mr. Wu and the delegation accompanying him were received upon arrival by Mr. Masri.

One of the officials accompanying Mr. Wu said in Baghdad earlier on Friday China wants to play an active role to help find a peaceful solution to the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Zhu Ying Lu, director of West Asian and North African affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told Reuters that Peking, which has diplomatic ties with both sides, would exert every effort to end the conflict.

More Palestinian detainees end West Bank hunger-strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Several hundred Palestinian prisoners protesting against conditions in Israeli jails have called off a hunger strike, leaving about 50 prisoners still fasting at Jericho prison in the occupied West Bank, Israeli and Palestinian sources told Reuters.

The prisoners accepted an offer of talks with prison commissioner Rafi Sulasa on Sunday, they said. Palestinian sources said 1,500 prisoners took part in the protest, which began eight days ago.

The strike was over violence by guards, overcrowding and poor food.

Two Palestinians held

Israeli military officials said on Thursday they had charged two Palestinians with involvement in what they described as a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plot to kidnap Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek.

The charges against the two Palestinians, who will be tried in a military court, said they were recruited by the PLO and ordered to collect information about Kollek to prepare the kidnapping.

Named the two as Amar Ahmad Hasein Abu Kadeen, 25, and Faez Daoud Karoun, 26, both from Jerusalem.

The plotters hoped to hold Kollek to seek the release of Palestinians serving a life sentence in an Israeli prison for resistance activities, according to the charges.

According to the charge sheet released by the court on Wednesday, Abu Kadeen monitored Kollek's movements. He was given hand grenades and other weapons which were to have been used in the abduction, said an Israeli spokesman.

Other military sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the report in the daily Hadashot that the two planned to demand the release of a Palestinian sentenced to life imprisonment by the Israeli occupation authorities. The newspaper did not name the prisoner.

No date was set for the start of the trial, the newspaper said.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian (second from left), who arrived in Amman on a four-day visit, is received upon arrival by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (third from left) and senior officials on Friday (Petra photo)

Joint team leaves for Oman to discuss steadfastness fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Jordanian Palestinian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule Friday left for Oman to hold talks on ways to bolster support and backing for the steadfastness of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories.

The delegation groups Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an from Jordan, and Mohammad Milhem and Dr. Fuad Basiso from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dr. Kana'an told the Jordan Times that during the two-day meeting the delegation will discuss the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and Israel's designs to evict the local Arab population and to set up more Zionist settlements. The delegation is also expected to present a detailed report on a special fund for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in implementation of the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions.

On Thursday, the chairman of the Palestine National Fund, Jawad Al Ghusain, denied Western newspaper reports that the PLO had property and cash worth \$5 billion.

Reports in the Times of London and New York Times this week claimed PLO holdings included banks and companies in the Arab World and farms in Africa.

"As the chairman of the Palestine National Fund which controls all the financial activities of the PLO I wish to tell you that these reports are baseless and without foundation and contributions coming from Arab countries and the liberation fee (paid by Palestinians working overseas) are not meeting our needs," Mr. Ghusain told a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Ghusain, who is also a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the PLO's annual revenue went into two main channels.

"The first \$100 million go to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee to support Palestinian people inside occupied territories and the next 250 million go to the PLO and its institutions such as the Red Crescent, families in need and urgent expenditures for Palestinians in Lebanon who are estimated at 500,000," he said.

Fresh fighting erupts along Beirut green line

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shells crashed either side of Beirut's "green line" on Friday in the heaviest fighting along the main Lebanese civil war battlefield for several weeks, security sources said.

Mortar, anti-tank grenades and heavy machine gun battles intermittently closed one of two roads linking the mostly Christian east and Muslim dominated west, and sources quoted by Reuters said five people were killed and several injured.

Other parts of the city were quiet. The 10-year-old green line is not covered by a Syrian-backed security plan that took effect in west Beirut two days ago in a fresh bid to end militia anarchy in the capital's western sector.

The Voice of the Homeland radio said tanks were in action in a central sector of the front. It did not give details and there was no independent confirmation of the report.

Police reported that two ceasefires were shattered on Friday as a security committee representing the Lebanese army and the three

Crown Prince returns after visit to Gulf warfront

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman on Thursday at the end of a three-day visit to Iraq during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi leaders.

The Crown Prince also visited the Iran-Iraq warfront where he was briefed on preparations by the Iraqi armed forces to repel Iranian aggression. He also met with army officers at the front lines who briefed him on the situation along the front.

Earlier on Thursday, Prince Hassan visited a memorial for the unknown soldier where he placed a wreath in honour of Iraqi martyrs. Later, he visited a military museum where he viewed different types of military equipment used by the Iraqi armed forces since its establishment and samples of arms captured in the Gulf war.

Prince Hassan also called at the Iraqi Military Academy where he met with Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and delivered a lecture at the military academy on security in the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf zones.

Prince Hassan was greeted upon returning to Amman by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqam, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah and other senior officials.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul

(Continued on page 3)
(Photo on page 3)

Canada does not rule out sabotage in DC-8 crash that killed 248 U.S. soldiers

GANDER, Newfoundland (Agencies) — Canadian aviation authorities refused on Friday to rule out sabotage in the crash of a DC-8 that ploughed into a wood shortly after take-off from Gander, killing all 248 U.S. soldiers and eight crewmembers on board.

"Nothing has been ruled out, we are investigating every angle at this point," said Christianne Beaulieu, a spokeswoman for the Canadian aviation safety board which is coordinating the investigation into Thursday's crash.

Her statement at a news conference at Gander airport came after an anonymous caller to an international news agency in Beirut claimed that the crash was caused by a bomb set by the Islamic Jihad group.

"The charge was intended to

explode when the plane landed in the United States, but the delay at the plane's stopover at a military air base in Germany caused the explosion at a Canadian airport," the caller said.

"We have proved our ability to strike at the Americans anywhere," the anonymous caller said. He added that the operation was carried out in collaboration with the "Arab Egypt Association," only previously known for attacks on Israelis in South Lebanon.

"Everything that comes up in the investigation will be taken into account," said Ms. Beaulieu, when asked whether the board was taking seriously the claim by Islamic Jihad.

Another group, the Egypt Liberation Organisation, also claimed

that it blew up the airliner. "We are responsible for the explosion of the plane with the American soldiers," an anonymous caller told an Italian news agency in Rome.

On Thursday, a U.S. Defence Department investigator said they had found no evidence of sabotage in the crash.

In Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger both said there was no reason to suspect sabotage.

Scores of searchers returned on Friday to the snow-covered hills where the DC-8 crashed and exploded, seeking the cause of the disaster.

The four-engine jet crashed early Thursday seconds after take-off from this airport on Canada's

Atlantic coast. Aboard were troops of the 101st Airborne Division, returning home after a six-month tour of duty with the multinational peacekeeping force in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

The plane's flight recorders and the bodies of half of the victims were recovered by late Thursday. Ms. Beaulieu said 32 representatives of the U.S. military were on hand to observe the search effort at the crash site in sparsely wooded, snow-blanketed hills about 400 metres from Gander international airport. Reporters were kept away from the site.

The DC-8 flight had originated in Cairo and made a refuelling stop at Cologne, West Germany. Air crash shocks have community,

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PLO redeployes forces to rebuild military muscle

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is redeploying forces from its Tunis headquarters to Baghdad and other Arab capitals in a new strategy aimed at rebuilding its military muscle, Palestinian sources say.

PLO staff have joined its military wing, the Palestine Liberation Army, and left for the Iraqi capital with their families in the past three weeks in a move involving 250 to 300 people, the sources say.

Iraq has agreed to pay for military training in Baghdad, which is the PLO's main PLO base, and is "rebuilding" its military muscle in this sense as units of its army, they add.

The PLO leadership and the core of its main departments will stay in Tunis, but many sections are being cut back by between 50 and as much as 75 per cent.

Other staff are to be moved to Jordan, Algeria, the PLO's military headquarters in North Yemen, and to Sudan, according to the sources.

The objective is to step up military preparedness for operations against Israel in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, the sources say.

Senior PLO officials stress the decision to move personnel was taken before Israel bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunis on Oct. 1.

They add that the cause of the move was not Tunisia's reaction to the event. Diplomatic sources say President Habib Bourguiba seriously considered reducing the PLO presence in Tunis following the Israeli raid, in which Tunisians also died. But public government statements have firmly supported the PLO presence.

The number of Palestinians leaving Tunis, where PLO chief Yasser Arafat moved his head-

quarters from Beirut in 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, has nevertheless increased since then.

It is the second wave of departures this year. The Feb. 11 Jordanian-PLO Middle East accord sparked a migration of hundreds of Palestinians from Tunis to Amman, the Palestinian sources say.

Although some personnel from the Palestinian News Agency Wafa have left Tunis and its distribution to foreign media here has become irregular in the past two weeks, there is no question of it closing down here, the sources add.

The Political Department under PLO "Foreign Minister" Farouk Kaddoumi is also to stay, as are the headquarters of the 10-man Executive Committee, the PLO's "inner cabinet" headed by Mr. Arafat.

The bulk of those who have been moved during the year are from popular mass organisations such as Palestinian workers, women and students, as well as the Palestine Martyr's Works Society (Samed), the sources say.

The size of the PLO's security corps has also been cut as Mr. Arafat's headquarters staff.

The sources said a significant factor in the re-evaluation of the PLO's presence in Tunis was the problem of Palestinian unemployment, whose potential was being wasted with nothing to do for them in the homeland they claim.

When Iraq changed its policy to allow the entry of families of PLO

personnel, the PLO saw this as an ideal opportunity, the sources said.

"We are trying to rebuild our organisation, tighten discipline and regroup our resources," said one PLO official, who asked not to be named.

Unemployed Palestinians were a potential security risk as it was difficult to keep track of individuals. To illustrate this, another official pointed out that a number of those killed in the bombing of the PLO headquarters were never identified.

The Palestinian sources said staff at the Tunis offices of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) of Muhammad Abbas, who Washington accuses of masterminding the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise liner, have been reduced.

A pro-PLF weekly magazine, Al Uqba (horizon), closed its central Tunis office two months ago to continue publishing in Cyprus, former editorial staff said.

Western diplomats point out that Tunisia offers some advantages for the PLO as a base because of the country's relatively good communications.

It also offers freedom of political action, despite the problem of geographical distance from the Israeli-occupied territories, they say.

Baghdad, which is offering the PLO a camp to the south of the capital, is on the other hand locked in a long-running war with Iran and this poses problems of communications and travel, they say.

Although the PLO would like it, Cairo is apparently politically too sensitive for a significant presence because of continued Arab hostility to Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, they add.

Kidnapped American reportedly died in Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — William Buckley, one of six Americans kidnapped in Lebanon by Muslim extremists, died in a Tehran hospital eight months ago from a heart attack brought on by torture, investigative journalist Jack Anderson said in a syndicated column.

The report based on interviews with intelligence sources, said Mr. Buckley, who was officially listed as a political officer in the U.S. embassy in Beirut, was in fact CIA station chief in the Lebanese capital when he was seized on March 16, 1984.

The column, printed in the Washington Post and dozens of other U.S. newspapers, said the State Department's official position on Buckley is that "we assume that he is alive and have been operating on that principle."

However, Anderson said CIA information confirms that Buckley, 57, is dead and that he died in a hospital in Iran 13 months after he was kidnapped in Beirut.

Two months ago his captors, members of the extremist Shiite Muslim Party of God or Hezbollah, claimed to have murdered Buckley and attempted to have his body exchanged for 100 Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

In fact, Anderson said, Buckley has already been dead six months when the Islamic Jihad organisation — closely allied to the Party of God — released a photograph of a body purporting to be that of Buckley.

Meanwhile Terry Waite's office in London said Thursday the British church envoy will return to Beirut within the next two weeks in a new bid to win freedom for four Americans kidnapped in Lebanon.

Mr. Waite, who visited Lebanon and the United States last month, would fly to Beirut before Christmas but had not settled a date yet, a spokeswoman said.

His office said Wednesday he would return this week but on Thursday said: "Mr. Waite is engaged in a series of talks relating to his mission in Beirut."

U.N. renews mandate of Cyprus force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has unanimously approved another six-month extension of the mandate of the 2,300-man U.N. peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The mandate expires on June 15, 1986.

UNFICYP has been stationed on the Mediterranean island since 1964 to help keep the peace between its ethnic Greek and Turkish communities.

It consists at present of troops and a small number of civilian police from eight countries: Australia, Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.

Larnaca gunmen get life imprisonment

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Three gunmen were found guilty Friday of killing three Israelis at Larnaca marina in September and the Nicosia Court sentenced them to life in prison.

"Since the abolition of the death penalty, the law provides only one sentence. The accused are sentenced to life imprisonment on each of the three counts of premeditated murder," Court President John Poyiadjes said.

Khaled Abdul Al Khatib, 28, Abdul Hakim Saado Al Khalifa, 29, and Briton Ian Michael Davison, 27, broke into smiles and chatted after being told they each would serve up to 20 years in jail, although lawyers said this could be halved for good behaviour.

The three admitted killing the Israelis aboard the yacht "first" in Larnaca Harbour, and the defence said they had acted out of moral duty to the Palestinian cause.

Defence Counsel Haris Solomides said there had been reasonable evidence the Israelis were intelligence agents responsible for the capture of Palestinian commander by the Israeli Navy.

Israel said the two men and a woman shot on the yacht on Sept. 25 were innocent tourists and bombed the Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Org-

anisation (PLO) in retaliation six days later, killing more than 60 people.

Khalifa admitted killing Esther Paltrux as she tried to escape the attack on the yacht. Davison said he shot Abraham Avnery and Khatib said he shot Esther's husband Reuben Paltrux.

The two Israeli men were held hostage for nine hours before the gunmen killed them and surrendered to police.

The three spoke from the dock after being found guilty. Khatib said: "We promise the Palestinian heroes that we will continue the struggle."

Khalifa said: "We ask for justice because our cause is a just one. I don't think I have to give proof of our cause as you have a similar situation here. Israel has our lands and the Turks have yours" — a reference to Turkish troops stationed in the north of divided Cyprus.

Davison, speaking in Arabic, said everyone must fight for Palestinian rights. "If I am condemned for 100 years, I don't care. My freedom is in my heart and my conscience," he said.

All three ended with the Palestinian slogan "Revolution Till Victory."

The Palestinians repeated thr-

ough interpreters statements made in court that the three Israeli victims were intelligence agents responsible for the capture of sea-borne commandos whose release the gunmen demanded during the yacht siege.

Davison said in his northern English accent that they had been expecting the sentence since the day of the attack on the "first". Asked if he expected a rescue attempt, Davison said: "We'll see what happens. I don't expect anything."

He said life in Nicosia prison was "pretty laid back, as the Americans say. We have a chance to walk, read, think."

Asked if he had any regrets, Davison said: "No, none at all. I would do it again." He said he had no remorse for the three Israelis when asked if the killings were not cold-blooded.

"What do you call cold blood. You know they've been killing Palestinians for years and nobody thinks about it."

"The sentence doesn't matter, what matters for us is that we have done our duty to the Palestinian cause," declared Khalifa.

"We stretch our hands to the Jews if they want peace, but if they don't want peace then it is either us or them. If the door is closed in our faces, there remains nothing

but extremism," He added.

Khalifa bore a tattoo on his left arm saying in Arabic "My life is suffering."

Khatib repeated Davison's statement that his conscience was free even if he had to spend "100 years in jail."

Khatib said one of the dead Israelis was a senior member of Mossad, the Israeli secret service, and that he was responsible for the murder of Ali Hassan Salameh, the chief of Palestinian intelligence in Beirut in 1978.

Salameh was generally believed to have masterminded the Palestinian commando attack against the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

In a summation last Saturday at the end of the six-day trial, defence lawyer Haris Solomides said the three admitted the slayings but "consider their acts to be lacking in moral guilt... and that they committed these acts as a moral duty imposed on them by a moral command dictated by their Palestinian people."

The prosecutor, Michael Kyprianos, argued that the motive should not be considered under Cypriot law. A so-called moral motive does not make them "any less guilty in the eyes of the law," he said.

Iran indicates slow-down in preparations for offensive

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Iranian leadership on Friday indicated it would slow down its preparations for the expected major offensive into Iraqi territory, as Iraq said its bombers dealt "strong and deadly" blows to Iran's strategic Kharg Island oil terminal in the northeastern sector of the Gulf.

An Iraqi military spokesman told Baghdad Radio that Iraqi jet fighters also raided a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast.

He reiterated the Iraqi high command's threat to "step up the raids" on Iran's economic veins until the Tehran regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a negotiated end to the five-year-old Gulf war.

In Tehran, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told the Friday congressional prayer that Iran was ready to "hold off the crucial offensive" if Iraq decided from "committing further crimes against us."

Mr. Rafsanjani, who doubles as Ayatollah Khomeini's personal representative on the supreme defence council, was obviously alluding to Iraq's almost daily raids on Kharg and frontline Ira-

nian troop emplacements.

Iran was reported to be massing an estimated 500,000 troops in preparation for a major ground offensive into central and southern Iraqi territory. Iraqi officials confirmed this, vowing to "break Iran's military spine" and turn the expected onslaught into a "decisive defeat."

But Mr. Rafsanjani insisted that the war will "be pursued until final victory, or until the Iraqi government is removed."

His sermon was widely interpreted here as a limited truce offer, to allow the Gulf Arab states to define a collective new status.

Iraqi Defence Minister Adnan Khatirallah earlier in the week told reporters that the raids on the terminal were designed to "minimise Iran's chances of repairing the damage already inflicted on Kharg." He said the raiding planes were "destroying what has already been repaired and blow up whatever installations that are still intact" on the island.

Friday's Iraqi attack was the 22nd raid since mid-August on Kharg, which accounts for 90 per cent of Iran's exports of crude oil.

FBI blames pro-Israel group for terrorism

WASHINGTON (R) — William H. Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has said Tuesday that Arab-Americans had entered a "zone of danger" and were targets of violence by a group seeking to harm "enemies of Israel."

Mr. Webster said that the FBI had found links among a series of recent attacks on Arab-Americans, although he did not provide a detailed description of the group purportedly behind the incidents.

"I think I can say that Arab individuals or those supporting of Arab points of view have come within the zone of danger — targeting by a group as yet to be fully identified and brought to justice," he said in a question-and-answer session with reporters at the National Press Club.

Militant Jewish organisations have come under suspicion in five terrorist attacks this year, including two bombings of Arab-American groups.

U.S. continues spy probe in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. investigators questioned Israeli diplomats for a second day Friday about their involvement in the affair of a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst accused of spying for Israel, a U.S. official said.

The official declined to say where the questioning was taking place or how long the investigators planned to stay.

"It depends mainly on how long it takes to talk to the people they have to talk to," the official told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The veil of secrecy also was maintained by Israeli officials, who declined all comment on the affair. "All I can tell you is that I can tell you nothing," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Some Israeli officials have expressed concern that the case of Jonathan Pollard, arrested on Nov. 21 outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, could strain Israel's relations with its most important ally unless Israel cooperates completely in the current inquiry.

U.S. continues spy probe in Israel

aches, Ilan Ravid and Yosef Yagur, who were recalled a few days after Pollard's arrest.

Israel has formally apologised for the affair and has agreed to a U.S. request to return any secret documents supplied by Pollard.

A second controversy appeared to be brewing following a raid on factories in three states by customs agents in the United States. The agents carried out the raids as part of an investigation into the possible illegal export to Israel of plans to manufacture advanced tank cannon.

The Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv, without alluding directly to Thursday's raids, released a statement Friday morning which said in part: "Purchases by the Defence Ministry delegation in New York are carried out in a legal and official manner, with the knowledge and approval of the U.S. authorities."

"All the deals and dispatches are reported on a regular and permanent basis to the U.S. government in accordance with the laws and regulations," said the statement.

"Neither the Israeli government nor the Defence Ministry received any report about any existing investigation or suspicion regarding any purchase carried out by the Defence Ministry delegation in the United States," it concluded.

The U.S. official said the United States has not yet asked Israel to respond to the investigation.

Israel was accused earlier this year of illegally exporting from the United States electronic valves called Krytons, which can be used in controlling nuclear and other explosions. It denied it had acted illegally, but agreed to return the unused Krytons.

The U.S. agents raided Napco Inc. in Connecticut; Abernathy Lead Construction Co. in Pennsylvania;

nylvania and G-And-B Packing Co. Inc. in New Jersey, said Frederick Scullin Jr., U.S. attorney for the northern district of New York.

No arrests were made during the Thursday raids, Scullin said.

According to affidavits filed by customs agents when they asked for the search warrants, authorities sought evidence that the concerns shipped plans for a new manufacturing process for 120mm cannon barrels and one of the barrels, to Israel.

The improved manufacturing process for the barrels, which he said are usually used on tanks, was developed between 1982 and 1985 at the U.S. army's Watervliet arsenal near Albany, Mr. Scullin said.

The process, chrome-plating the inside of the barrels, made the guns last longer and shoot straighter, according to a report Thursday on NBC Television's nightly news programme.

The U.S. army was five years ahead of other nations in developing the technology, NBC said, quoting unidentified federal officials.

Napco obtained the plans for the improved cannon-making process and equipment and contracted with Abernathy Lead Construction to manufacture one piece of the equipment, he said.

G-And-B Packing was retained to ship the equipment to Israel, Mr. Scullin said.

The blueprints now bear Israeli markings, NBC said. Napco had a contract to make repairs inside the Watervliet arsenal, the network said.

"We don't understand what's going on," said John Hatosopoulos, senior vice president with the Massachusetts-based Thermo Electron Corp., Napco's parent company.

Israeli developer charged with fraud

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli developer who claimed he was being made a scapegoat tried to jump out a window of the court building moments before he was charged with fraud and theft in a West Bank land scandal.

Avraham Gindi, part-owner of a large land and housing development company, said that he was trying to commit suicide.

"I have become a sacrifice. A terrible injustice is being done to me," Gindi said in remarks broadcast on Israel Army Radio.

He claimed he was only a "small fry" in the unfolding political controversy about land frauds in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "They are accusing me of stealing billions of shekels. I have lost billions of shekels," he said.

Asked if he had tried to throw himself out a sixth-floor window of the district court building in a suicide attempt, he said "it's a fact" without elaboration.

Gindi is accused of receiving more than a million dollars from hundreds of Israeli Jews who, after they were buying plots of land in government-approved settlements in the West Bank, the Jerusalem Post reported some buyers were allegedly sold land that was not owned by Gindi's company.

He was charged with offences including fraud and theft, and his detention was extended until next Tuesday, Assistant District Attorney Rachel Shiber said in a telephone interview.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 77311-14	21:45 25 Years of Rock	22:00 News Summary	22:30 The Blues	23:00 News Summary	23:30 Country Music	24:00 Close down
MAIN CHANNEL	17:00 Koran	17:30 Cartoons	17:50 Children's Programme	18:15 Local Programme	18:45 Local Social Series	19:45 Tomorrow's Programme and varieties
20:00 News in Arabic	20:30 Arabic Series	21:00 Tomorrow's programmes and varieties	21:30 Arabic Play	22:00 News in Arabic	22:30 Play Continued	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	18:00 le tour du monde en 80 jours	18:30 La portaise de pain	19:00 News in French	19:30 Aujourd'hui en France	19:50 News in Hebrew	20:00 News in Arabic
20:00 It's Your Move	21:00 Automania	21:20 Saturday Variety Show	21:40 News in English	22:00 Feature Film: Aces High		
RADIO JORDAN 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.00 kHz, SW Tel. 77411-14	07:00 Light Music	07:30 News Summary	08:00 Morning Show	08:30 News Summary	09:00 Pop Session	10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session cont.	11:00 Pop Session cont.	11:30 Pop Session cont.	12:00 Pop Session cont.	12:30 Pop Session cont.	13:00 Pop Session cont.	13:30 Pop Session cont.
14:00 Jordan Weekly	14:30 Music	15:00 Concert Hour	15:30 News Summary	16:00 News Summary	16:30 Instruments	17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Talking Points	18:00 Animal Vegetable Mineral	18:30 News Summary	19:00 Top Tunes	19:30 Date with a Star	20:00 The 15th Century A.H.	20:30 The Young Sound
21:00 News Summary						

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of oil paintings by Egyptian artist Hassan Belal at the Petra Bank Art Gallery (until Dec. 18).

An exhibition on the French television system "Antiope" at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 14).

The second ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tador at the Alia Art Gallery (until Dec. 17).

A photography exhibition entitled "The Festival in Pictures" by Yammouk University's Photography Club at the Royal Hotel (until Dec. 18).

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries).

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luwibdi, 637440.

De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661787.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Astrafeth, 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Astrafeth, 775261.

St. Egharish Church (Syrian Orthodox) Abadi, 771731.

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya, 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabbal Amman, 678906.

St. George, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811285.

Rainbow Congregation (Inter-national, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabbal Amman, Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:00	Fajr
06:29	Sunrise
11:30	Dhuhr
14:15	Asr
16:31	Maghreb

Public works projects to provide job opportunities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh has said that his ministry's budget for 1986 will make available many job opportunities due to the projects it includes. During a meeting he chaired Thursday for directors of public works in the governorates, he added that work on maintaining roads should be intensified to guarantee the safety of road users and this means that

all the concerned parties should prepare for the approaching winter. Public works departments should therefore ensure that trenches, culverts and drains are clear and that necessary precautions are taken in areas susceptible to landslides, Mr. Hawamdeh said. The minister also called for the erection of more warning signs, speed limit signs and guiding signs on roads.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee discusses 1986 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament financial committee has finished its discussions on the general draft budget for 1986 following a week of intensive sessions. The committee will submit a report on this subject to the Lower House for debate and approval.

Egyptian agriculture team due today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Egyptian agricultural delegation is expected here today on a week-long visit to Jordan during which they will meet senior officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and also visit protected agriculture and drip irrigation projects in the country. The 15-member delegation is led by Dr. Mahmoud Noor.

Afternoon banking pays off

AMMAN (Petra) — A recent study conducted by the Housing Bank Research and Studies Department has shown that the bank saves JD 1.8 million annually for the public sector and government institutions through the afternoon banking service which the bank adopted for the first time in Jordan in 1975. The study also revealed that this afternoon service achieved positive results regarding the productivity of employees as the bank, with its 77 branches throughout the country, was able to save the public sector and government institutions some 2,200,000 working hours annually (363,167 working days) which could have been wasted if government employees had to leave their departments during official working hours to complete their banking transactions.

Rabat suggests government-in-exile

(Continued from page 1)

Thus the main debate, in the Palestinian arena, revolves around the timing of announcing such a step. As things stand now the negative aspects, according to the ongoing debate, seem to outweigh any positive ones.

One of the negative implications of forming a government-in-exile at this stage, as pointed out by Palestinian officials, is that such a step "could create a political confusion since there are governments (Arab and foreign) which recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people but do not necessarily support a Palestinian government-in-exile and vice-versa."

"We do not want to jeopardise the Arab and international legitimacy and support enjoyed by the PLO, particularly at a time when Palestinian representation remains a controversial matter for the United States, and certain other parties, which would like to undermine the PLO's legitimacy and is actually seeking a substitute for the organisation," a Palestinian official commented.

Ironically, however, the American refusal to deal with or to recognise the PLO is cited as a major factor in favour of announcing a government-in-exile at this stage. Some of the supporters of the idea also argue that the PLO's image has recently been associated with terrorism and weakened due to Palestinian divisions and, consequently, a government-in-exile will give "a new and a fresh image to Palestinian representation."

This argument, of course, implies that the officials in the suggested government would be different from the present PLO leaders even if they were appointed by the PLO.

But there are no indications so far that the PLO would be willing to go that far in order to overcome the obstacle posed by the U.S. refusal to deal with or to include the PLO in any peace negotiations.

Furthermore, according to an informed Palestinian source, getting the American government to recognise a Palestinian

government-in-exile could only be possible if the members of this government would be acceptable to the U.S. and if its line was different from that of the PLO. "Thus an American recognition of such a government would not necessarily have the same significance or implications of that of an American recognition of the PLO and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as the PLO seeks," the source added.

Therefore the crux of the issue boils down again to the PLO's right to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and the question, "Does the PLO give it up?"

According to the PLO's view, government-in-exile to be set up by the PLO should be instrumental in furthering the organisation's goals and not change them. "The government will act as the state while the PLO will act as the party," one official explained.

Yet, in the Algerian experience, which the PLO always cites as an example, the leaders of the provisional government were not members of the National Liberation Front and were acceptable to the French while some publicly disputed the front's goals.

The difference, as Palestinian students of the Algerian Revolution pointed out, is that the front announced the formation of the provisional government only when the French were ready to negotiate a withdrawal of French troops from Algeria, and agreed to grant independence to Algeria.

It is worthwhile noting that the idea of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile was originally a Palestinian one and a Palestinian government was actually formed in 1948. The "All of Palestine" government was formed in Gaza on Sept. 23, 1948 and was headed by Ahmad Hilmi Abdul Baqi. The government faced strong opposition from some Arab countries and was forced to move its headquarters from Gaza to Cairo where King Farouk severely restricted its movement and consequently it steadily lost its authority and influence and faded into oblivion.

W.Bank leaders to meet Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

In another development, the PLO, expressing anxiety over an apparent shift in France's Middle East policy, has appealed to European governments to continue their "positive role" in the search for peace.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters in Tunis that a remark by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas this week that the PLO did not represent the entire Palestinian people was a clear retreat from previous public statements.

"We hope that European governments will not surrender to American pressure to cut relations with the PLO and we hope also the European Community will continue its positive role to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East," he said.

"The statement by Dumas will damage the relationship between

the PLO and the French government and it is a clear retreat from the French government's traditional position regarding the PLO," he added.

In a clarifying statement in Jerusalem on Tuesday, Mr. Dumas said that France's position had not changed and that it was not up to France to nominate the representative of the Palestinian people.

Abdul Rahman also attacked a statement by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in London on Tuesday that the PLO was disqualifying itself from the peace process by not accepting United Nations resolutions implying recognition of Israel.

"We want to emphasise that without recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, there will be no peace in the Middle East," Abdul Rahman said.



CROWN PRINCE RETURNS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned home on Thursday after a visit to Iraq and the Gulf, is received upon arrival by Prime Minister Zaki al-Haj, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasbi and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (Petra photo).

Swedish organisation to establish child welfare, research centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A centre for the welfare of children in Jordan will be established in Amman next month by the Swedish Save the Children Fund Organisation Rada Barnen, according to an official announcement made in Amman on Thursday.

The announcement followed the signing of an agreement for the establishment of the centre which will be operated by the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation and which will serve as a regional centre for research and specialised studies in child welfare.

An agreement for the establishment of the centre was signed by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al

Haj Hassan, Queen Noor Foundation Director In'am Al Mufri and a representative of the Rada Barnen organisation. The centre, which will open next month, will be temporary, pending the construction of a permanent centre on land to be offered by the government, according to the announcement.

Mr. Haj Hassan told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, after the signing ceremony that the centre will contain units for mother and child care, health education, a laboratory and facilities including a clinic for early discovery of handicaps in children. The centre will also have a child care research unit

and will analyse data and information on children's handicaps. The centre will also organise seminars and training courses on subjects related to child welfare and handicaps, Mr. Haj Hassan added.

The minister voiced deep appreciation to the Swedish organisation and said that the establishment of the centre was agreed upon during Her Majesty Queen Noor's visit to Sweden last year.

Rada Barnen offers child care and humanitarian assistance to people in more than 30 nations and is largely financed by contributions and donations from the people of Sweden.

'Support the AUB' conference reviews problems, draw up recommendations

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A conference entitled "support the AUB" was held on Friday at the Intercontinental Hotel and representatives from the Arab World attended the gathering which was organised by the American University of Beirut (AUB) Alumni Club in Amman. At the conference, delegates reaffirmed their belief in the ability of the AUB to continue to serve as a noted educational institution in the Middle East and expressed confidence that the educational standards at the university could be brought up to its previous level.

Speakers at the conference reached a consensus that the AUB has witnessed a deterioration in its standard of education over the past years as a result of the political and economic upheavals in Lebanon. Speeches on the problems and hopes of the AUB were given by Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the board of trustees; Dr. Calvin Plimpton, president of the AUB, Mr. Fawzi Maslouf, president of the AUB Alumni Association and Mr. Robert Boyden, chairman of the AUB Development Committee.

After lengthy discussions it was decided to call on the board of trustees and the president of the university to strengthen the development in all necessary fields.

Tackling the problem of the enormous budget deficit the conference recommended that the board of trustees, in cooperation with the administration and the development committee, draw up a programme of action, form a committee of alumni in the fields of business and finance to set the framework for action, hire a team of experts for consultations and

guidance and use the alumni collectively and individually in the execution of fund-raising operations.

Stressing the need to keep constant contacts between the alumni in various countries, the conference called upon all alumni, in coordination with the Alumni Association of Beirut and the AUB Development Office, to form formal or informal associations, wherever possible. The Alumni Association and the Development Office were charged by the conference with the task of publishing Al Kulliya — the AUB alumni paper — as a main means for communications between the alumni and the university, and among the different groups of alumni worldwide. Up-dated lists of the services the AUB can offer in various fields will have to be produced under the supervision of the Research and Planning Committee in order to increase the coordination with the different alumni groups, the conference recommended.

Regarding the level of social and cultural activities, the conference called on the Alumni Association in Beirut to formulate a committee to develop a master plan of action of activities for the different groups. This master plan should be the basic guideline to the different groups to implement what is compatible with their situations and capabilities.

It was also decided that the Alumni Club in Amman will host a follow-up meeting in Aqaba in May 1986.

Crown Prince returns from Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Wahab Al Majali accompanied Prince Hassan on his visit to Iraq. Upon his departure from Baghdad, Prince Hassan sent a cable to Mr. Ibrahim voicing appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during the visit to Iraq and expressing pride in the high morale and the great spirit of the Iraqi armed forces and their determination to repel any aggression. He wished the Iraqi people and armed forces all success and progress.

On Wednesday, Prince Hassan visited the headquarters of the Iraqi Fifth Brigade and was briefed by the brigade's commander about the battles the brigade fought against Iranian soldiers.

Prince Hassan addressed the brigade's soldiers and paid tribute to their courage and steadfastness in the face of the Iranian aggression and reaffirmed Jordan's support for Iraq.

On Tuesday Prince Hassan discussed bilateral relations and latest developments in the region with President Hussein.

Interior minister expected to visit Syria soon for talks on transit, travel procedures

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed is expected to visit Syria soon for talks on facilitating travel and transit procedures across the common Jordanian-Syrian border, according to press reports published in Amman Friday.

The talks will be a follow up to those started by Mr. Kayed and his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabash in Damascus last month, the reports said.

"Security for Jordan is also security for Syria and therefore cooperation will focus on safeguarding it in the spirit of brotherly cooperation which characterised the bilateral talks held recently in Amman and Damascus," the minister was quoted as saying.

The talks follow an announcement last week that Jordanians will no longer require permits from the security authorities in order to visit Syria, and comes close on the heels of Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Ra'uf Al Kasm's visit to Jordan this week.

Road link

As part of the renewed cooperation between Jordan and Syria, work has started on the construction of a 60 kilometre, four lane highway, linking Jordan with Syria, the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i quoted responsible officials at the Ministry of Public Works as saying. The new international road will start from the Zarqa-Mafraq-Riweished junction and will end at the Syrian village of Jaber. The road will be implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Works and will be executed by a Jordanian company and a Turkish contracting firm, the report said.

Electricity to Syrian villages

It has also been announced that Jordan has started supplying four

major towns in southern Syria with electric power in the course of an agreement on cooperation in energy-related affairs signed between the two countries in 1976.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director Mohammad Arafat said in a statement that nearly half a million people in southern Syria, close to the Jordanian border, will benefit from the new arrangement in which the 130 kilovolt national grid was linked with the Syrian grid. The towns of Der'aa, Quneitra, Sweidan and Sheikh Maskin are included in the project, Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat said that Irbid Governorate had been supplied with electric power from Syria between 1977 and 1979, also in implementation of the 1976 agreement.

The arrangement, following high level contacts on promoting trade and economic cooperation between Syria and Jordan, is regarded as another step towards renewing and bolstering ties between them, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Petra director returns from Arab news agencies talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Jawad Maraqa Friday returned to Amman from Kuwait, where he took part in a two-day conference of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), which concluded in Kuwait on Thursday.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Maraqa said that the general assembly of FANA approved the general secretariat's report on the last session's activities and stressed the need to continue holding training courses for news agencies staff in cooperation with international organisations and specialised agencies.

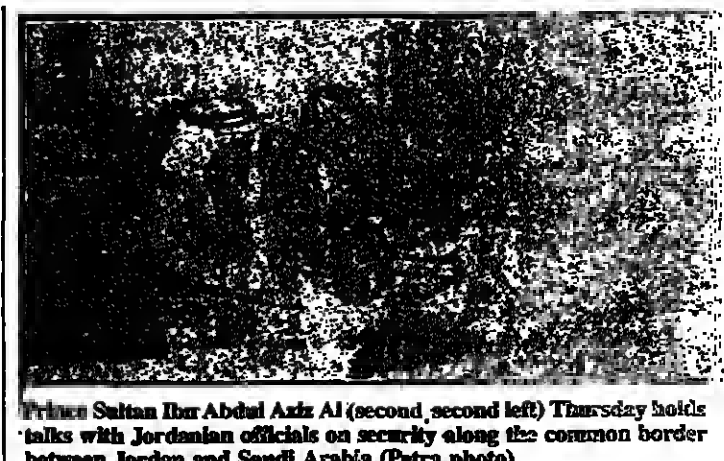
Mr. Maraqa added that the general assembly also considered the necessary steps for holding a round table conference to be attended by directors of Arab news agencies and chief editors of the Japanese press and media.

It was agreed that the general secretariat embark on preparations for holding the 5th Euro-Arab seminar for news agencies directors and that the secretariat approach Arab League and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to provide the financial assistance for making the conference a success.

The secretariat also briefed the general assembly on the outcome of a Vienna seminar about Arab and European public opinion and also about a memorandum regarding granting Arab news agencies different tariffs as approved by UNESCO.

The general assembly also decided that a seminar on the use of the Arab satellite, to be attended by Arabsat and the Arab and International Telecommunication Unions and officers in charge of technical sections at Arab news agencies (See related story on right).

The assembly also called on all Arab news agencies to intensify their coverage of sports, cultural and scientific news.



Prime Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al (second, second left) Thursday holds talks with Jordanian officials on security along the common border between Jordan and Saudi Arabia (Petra photo).

Jordan, Saudi Arabia review security along common border

MA'AN (Petra) — Jordan and Saudi Arabia Thursday held talks on ways of bolstering security along their common border. The talks were conducted by teams led by Ma'an Governor Eidi Al Qataneh and Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, governor of the Qassim region, close to the Jordanian border.

The two officials discussed mat-

ters connected with transit and transport facilities across the border and hunting in the border regions. The talks were a follow-up to those started in Saudi Arabia last August and aim to coordinate bilateral cooperation in controlling the border regions.

Several officials from Saudi Arabia and Jordan took part in the meetings.

Arabsat council relieves director from his duties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) has relieved Dr. Ali Al Mashat from his post as Arabsat director in view of past failures and what was described as "negative results of the organisation's administration," according to Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein upon his return from an Arabsat executive meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Hussein said that during the two-day meeting, a number of financial, organisational and administrative matters were discussed and important decisions were taken to help promote Arab satellite programme.

The council, which groups six Arab ministers, decided to fill the post of director general before the Arabsat's next general assembly meeting, the minister said. The council also decided to conduct a comprehensive revision of all by-laws, regulations and codes with the purpose of helping Arabsat operations achieve the best results, he added.

The minister continued that a number of Arab countries have linked their ground stations with the Arabsat, and added that others are expected to follow suit in the coming year. The six member council groups the ministers of communications in Morocco, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

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Feeling for Palestine

Maxim Ghilan

The following is a speech delivered at the 3rd international conference of Non-Governmental Organisations on the question of Palestine, held in Geneva Sept. 9-12. The speaker is the editor in chief of I&P-Israel and Palestine Political Report:

Politics, and particularly liberation politics, are cyclic; there, a country becomes fashionable and the Western liberals and radicals who support the struggles for freedom of Third World peoples grasp, with joy, the opportunity to defend, say, Nicaragua or El Salvador revolutionaries. Here, another drops out of sight and the champions of the Far-Away forget there are such people as the Timor Islanders or the Cambodians. But other peoples, still struggling along in spite of inexorably passing decades, remain in the news. Usually, for a very good reason.

Or reasons. One would be the support, or protection, of a superpower or given group of nations. The other would be the exemplary role a group or people plays, in the mind of those who still have political morals and feelings. A third reason may be — the danger in regional, or world peace, caused by harm done to a specific group of individuals.

The Polish Solidarity trade-unionists and the Afghan rebels won't go away from the public mind (or, more accurately, from Western media) because the United States and their followers in Western Europe have a vested interest in keeping alive awareness of their plight. Israel will not let rest the problem of the Jewish dissidents or Refuseniks inside the Soviet Union. There may be hundreds, even thousands of Westerners who would fight for their rights even if the media kept silent; not the millions now being mobilised for these three specific groups, fighting the might of the Soviet system.

Contrarily, the pressures exerted by the United States on the

Latin American subcontinent increase a thousandfold interest in the struggles of the Caribbeans or the resistance in Chile. There, another element plays, too, to increase awareness of Latin American struggles: The subcontinent has a half-free press and some free regimes; and is therefore capable of awakening interest in Europe and even inside the United States. In other words: The Latin American freedom fighters are interesting both because they are being hunted by Uncle Sam and because their battle is the concern of all Latins.

A particular — and somewhat different — case is Israel. The crimes committed by a variety of Europeans, in 1939-45, against Jews, under the yoke of the German Third Reich, caused a backlash of bad conscience which is still at work in Europe — particularly since Fascism has dwindled to a marginal role, in European politics, and can therefore be used safely as a scapegoat. The majoritarian movement of contemporary Jews, Zionism, is therefore a good ally, for most European and American administrations and regimes. The more so since, with the creation of the State of Israel and the evolution of Israeli rule over hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, deprived of their rights, Zionism has moved more and more to the right — and is therefore eminently compatible with the conservative governments of most of Western Europe.

Another particular case is that of the Palestinians. The Palestinians were not present in the awareness (much less the conscience) of the West, during

World War II. Thereafter, if at all, they were identified as part of the Arab people, and as such, to be managed as long as "The Arabs" had the whip hand in the oil trade. Once this was over, the Palestinians became, at best, another liberation movement and as such, suspect in the eyes of most Western governments. The epithet "terrorist" so often thrown at the PLO as the ultimate argument, one that supposedly can't be refuted, is really, only the expression of the Establishment's suspicion when faced with anything that rocks the international boat.

For the same reason, the PLO and other Palestinian organisations were supported, in the Sixties and Seventies, by revolutionaries, radicals and a variety of underdog-underground groups in the West. At the same time, Arab governments pressured the Western governments (and the European ones in particular) to accept, recognise and help the Palestinians and their main representative body, the PLO. Thus, the Palestinians too benefited from two reasons for being kept in the eye of Western conscience.

In the mid-Seventies, the situation changed. In Conservative eyes, and thus got more and more recognition from governments and official establishments in the West. (I had, most of the time, the support of the Soviet and Eastern Bloc establishment, which saw in the Palestinian liberation movement another Third World trend fighting Western influence.) When Arafat made his "olive branch and gun" speech, in November 1974, at the United Nations, 117 nations recognised and supported the PLO.

In the meantime, with the shrinking of radical politics in Europe and the U.S., the PLO had two good reasons to disentangle itself from the radicals' embrace. It must be said, too, that the PLO leadership itself had grown older

and less radical, as a whole. Thus, the growing PLO generation responded to the needs of less revolutionary and more conservative Western politics.

This created a number of contradictions, not apparent hitherto. For one thing, European interests started clashing, over the Middle East and particularly over the PLO, with United States policy in the area. Europeans who were, before, quite willing to follow U.S. leadership, started asking themselves if there was an American Middle East policy. (Some State Department old hands had raised that question, repeatedly, even before. Furthermore, the beneficiary of the Genocide's heritage and able to supply the Europeans with up-to-date intelligence in the Eastern Bloc, the Arab World and in Africa, and equally vital support for the PLO, able to foil (or to encourage) commercial deals with the Arab states, caused no little trouble to practical politicians in the West.

No less important, those western groups and individuals who were really concerned for human and national rights in the Third World had to confront similar — but by no means identical — contradictions. Almost no western concerned individual struggling for Palestinian rights does so, nowadays, out of anti-Jewishness. Those who had done so, went down the drain together with the more virulent, radical underground groups which, in the Sixties, and early Seventies, wanted to exploit the Palestinian problem as still another way of blowing up wide the Western Establishment. What remained were, on one hand, the practical politicians; and on the other, the true believers in freedom.

At the United Nations-sponsored conference of representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations which was held in Geneva, Sep-

tember 9-12, 1985, I sat at a table with thirteen other men and women. There were two Norwegian left-wing activists; one Arab-Israeli Catholic priest; one Chief Librarian at a northwestern American university; a well-known Israeli civil rights lawyer; a Presbyterian priest; the West German secretary general of a Euro-Arab organisation; and several others. What struck me, when each of them started telling me his background, was that, except for the Palestinians (both living in Israel and in exile), all those present, without exception, had started their careers as Zionists. As what the Israeli Establishment, with blatant arrogance, defines as "rigorous gentiles" or, in the case of the Israelis, "good Zionists". Only after becoming better acquainted with the Palestinians' plight and the historical record did they all become pro-Palestinian.

This is nice but I would not mention it had I not noticed that this dimension of today's pro-Palestinian activists opens the way for a better struggle for real justice and peace in the Middle East. Be they representatives of "practical political" bodies, or simply of militant peace-oriented groups, today's activists know both sides, understand there is no clear black-and-white situation in the Middle East and are, therefore, far more prone to accept (sometimes grudgingly) the two states solution, i.e., the need for the creation of an independent Palestinian State besides, and not instead of, the State of Israel.

This, in turn, gives the Israeli and Jewish peace camp new arms in its ongoing struggle for the hearts and minds of every Israeli and every Jew in the Diaspora. If we can prove that the struggle for a free Palestine is not aimed at the destruction of Israel, and that the Palestinians' Western allies are also the best defenders of Jewish

existence and rights in the future — both in the Middle East and in the West — then, and only then, shall we be able to make inroads of consequence.

The Jewish contribution to the NGO's fight for a just solution is important. It was acknowledged as such when more than one hundred Non-Governmental Organisations applauded Knesset Member Matty Peled from Israel and elected this writer, who represented the International Jewish Peace Union (IJPU), to preside over the first session of the meeting. The Israeli Council for Israel Palestine Peace, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in Israel, and the IJPU were all re-elected to the ICC, the International Coordinating Committee of U.N. NGOs.

Yet our role in this body is not just to represent the Jews and Israelis who want justice for the Palestinians and believe in peace. It is also, and above all, to help create an efficient and effective network of individuals and groups who shall be able to confront the Israeli establishment's propaganda. Another war may be in the making soon. The darker forces in Israel will have learned the lessons of their propaganda fiasco, during the War of Lebanon, in 1982. It is up to us to see that, next time, the media shall not be blanketed by falsehood and pro-Zionist propaganda. It is up to us to see that the governments of the West be forced to act. It is up to us to make sure that the true believers in justice and freedom are mobilised, once again, for the coming emergencies.

The existence of the U.N. NGO forum ensures that we will be given a chance to succeed. Should we fail, it will be our fault alone. And our most heavy responsibility, as human beings and justice fighters — Israel and Palestine Political Report.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: On the right track

AS of Thursday, Jordan began supplying four major towns in southern Syria with electricity as part of a joint programme of cooperation in energy and economic affairs between the two countries. This move coincided with a statement by Syrian Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Iruadi in which the minister voiced his confidence in fruitful relations between Damascus and Amman. He said the two countries hold great potentials and should embark on more efforts to increase the volume of trade. Despite the past differences, the two countries are now eligible for a fruitful course of cooperation, characterised by brotherly feelings and enhanced by genuine desire for progress. The linking of electric grids between Jordan and Syria represents a linking of interests and signifies another step towards closer cooperation and stronger ties. The recent contacts between the officials from both sides have paved the way for such cooperation, which once achieved, would enhance all efforts aiming towards the establishment of pan-Arab solidarity.

Al Dustour: Peace for Lebanon

THE new security plan which has been implemented in Lebanon seems to be successful. All militias seem to be abiding by orders that aim at restoring stability, security and peace to the embattled nation. With the implementation of the plan, hopes have risen that Lebanon will after all be allowed to live in peace and its people be given the chance of embarking on constructive and peaceful cooperation. We welcome the recent developments and the response displayed by militia leaders, but we should point out that all warring parties should now refrain from taking any step or making any move that would provoke the other parties or give cause for a breach of accord or a renewal of fighting. If all parties have good will then they should work in harmony within the spirit of the accord reached in Damascus. Once the Lebanese are on the course of reconciliation and genuine peace, they will have the blessing and backing of all Arabs. The recent Syrian-Jordanian communique voiced total support for the Lebanese people in their endeavours to reach peace and to fend off Israel's aggression. Lebanon should be supported by all Arabs and should be made to contribute constructively towards the Arab nation's endeavours towards unity and progress.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hopes for Lebanon

PREVIOUS plans laid down for restoring peace and security to Lebanon failed because the militias resorted to force upon the least provocation. Now, however, with the implementation of the new Syrian-backed plan the militias have pledged total commitment to security and peace. The central government in Beirut will not find it difficult to handle the task of re-establishing security, provided all militias abide by the terms of the agreement. The militias themselves will find it hard to give up their positions in the capital and to abandon the streets they have been controlling for many years. It will be difficult for the militias to give up their arms and disband their forces because they form a real power in the hands of their warlords. But if the plan is to succeed, every one should make concessions and accept the new rules. Also the militias in east Beirut as well as in west Beirut should be disbanded, if a lasting peace is to be achieved, and if Lebanon is to enjoy security and stability. Perhaps the Syrian armed forces will be needed to help the Lebanese militias help themselves and reach a lasting solution.

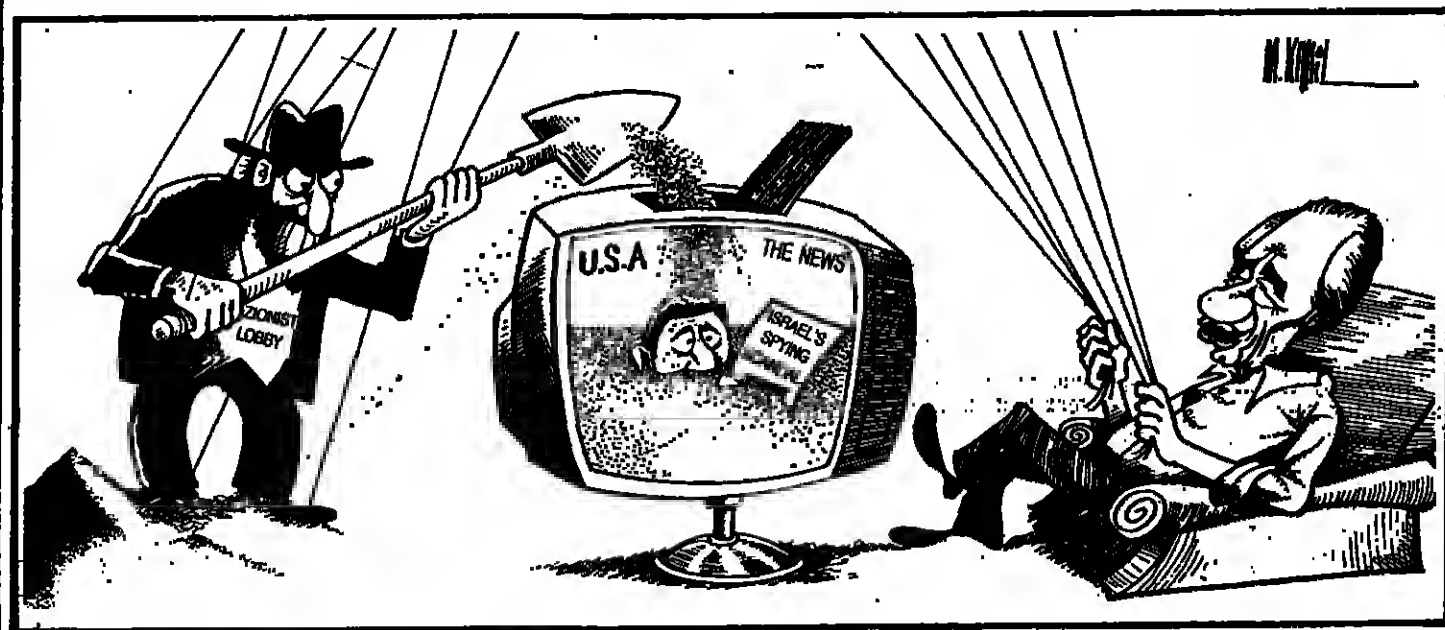
Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Successful visit

THE Syrian prime minister's visit to Jordan resulted in the issuance of a joint communique emphasising the national stands of both countries. Both countries underlined their demands for a total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. They said that peace can only be achieved through an international conference in which all concerned parties should be represented, and stressed that neither side can accept unilateral peace or direct negotiations with Israel. The talks in Amman reaffirmed that a just and durable peace must be achieved through an international conference, but that does not mean that Jordan and Syria cannot have other options for regaining their rights. Two other points were significant in the joint communique: Bolstering bilateral economic cooperation and coordinating efforts for supporting Lebanon's endeavours to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. An invitation extended by President Assad to King Hussein to visit Syria crowned the talks of the two prime ministers. Such a visit will enhance solidarity between the two countries and pave the way for greater reconciliation among Arab states.

Al Dustour: Commitment to peace

THE prime ministers of Syria and Jordan have affirmed in their joint communique the need for bolstering inter Arab cooperation and enhancing joint action. This solidarity is required, they said, for the establishment of peace based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. This communique reflects the firm stands of both countries and demonstrates their identity of views vis-a-vis the Middle East question. The communique reminded all observers that the two countries are firmly committed to help the Palestinians regain their usurped lands and rights and that, at the same time, they seek peace based on justice. The two sides also reaffirmed their long-standing policy of no direct talks with Israel and unilateral solution with the Jewish state. Both countries are committed to a comprehensive peace which should be accomplished through an international conference in which all concerned parties and major world powers should be represented. Since both countries hold similar views on key questions, then it is only natural for their leaders to adopt identical views, and therefore, it becomes incumbent on them to join their forces to achieve the same goals.



Vice-presidential choice brings Marcos assets

MANILA (R) — Arturo Tolentino, 75, named Wednesday by President Ferdinand Marcos as his running mate in elections in February, brings three major assets to a ticket assured of victory — independence, credibility and Manila votes.

By co-opting a man who was fired from the government nine months ago for "incompatibility", Marcos has disarmed those who might accuse him of appointing a "yes-man" as his number two. Furthermore, Tolentino has consistently questioned the legality of a parliamentary bill setting the election. He appears before the supreme court next week to argue, as a neutral "friend of the court," against its constitutionality.

He argues that Marcos cannot call an election without first resigning, a point made by opposition legislators and eminent lawyers

challenging the bill.

He is popular in metropolitan Manila, which has more than four million registered voters. He was the only one of five candidates for the ruling New Society Movement (KBL) in the city of Manila to win in the 1984 national assembly elections.

Also, even as the man who would be only a heart-beat away from the presidency, he poses no political threat to Marcos from personal ambition or powerful supporting cliques, a significant factor in Philippine politics. Tolentino was peremptorily dumped as foreign minister last March. The president said in a letter of dismissal that his position on certain issues was "incompatible with those of the party and the government."

In response, Tolentino told Marcos: "My leaving the cabinet is a happy development." To rep-

orters, he said: "I always felt like a casual employee whose services can be terminated at any point."

Tolentino is a highly respected lawyer, former congressman and senator in the bi-cameral legislature Marcos abolished, along with the vice-presidency, when he declared martial law in 1972.

He has served the government in several capacities, both at home and internationally. Among other jobs, he represented the Philippines at the United Nations and at the Law of the Sea Conference.

He was elected to parliament in 1978 as a member of the Nationalista Party under the umbrella of the KBL, served as a minister of state for foreign affairs and was re-elected on the KBL ticket last year.

But he was always considered a maverick or gadfly within the party. With opposition support, he forced a national referendum

early in 1984 that laid down rules of succession if Marcos died or left the presidency before his term ended.

After he was sacked, Tolentino said often that he would not support Marcos if he resigned and ran for re-election.

On the eve of Wednesday's KBL nominating convention, Tolentino said that if asked by Marcos and backed by the KBL to be vice-president, "I will accept, though reluctantly. I would accept, but with a little bit of difficulty."

Asked about apparent inconsistencies in his positions, he told Reuters: "I said I would not support him if he resigned and ran for re-election. Well, he has not resigned yet and under the (election) bill his resignation does not become effective until the winner is declared."

Britain signs 'Star Wars' pact despite official scepticism

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

LONDON — Britain has become the first country to join U.S. President Ronald Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI) programme despite widespread scepticism about whether it will work. One senior British defence official said there was considerable doubt among experts about whether the programme could ever fulfil President Reagan's dream of making nuclear weapons obsolete by constructing a space-based defensive shield against them.

"But when the Americans are willing to spend \$26 billion on funding out whether such a dream is viable, the attitude here was why shouldn't British companies have a share of the action," the official said.

According to British officials, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was motivated more by political and commercial con-

siderations than an evaluation of the military potential of the space research programme, popularly known as "Star Wars".

She was also anxious to underline Britain's special relationship with the United States. Thatcher originally attempted to write specific guarantees of \$1.5 billion worth of business for British companies into the agreement. When Washington refused, she settled for vague assurances of "substantial contracts".

According to the defence official, in doing so Thatcher overruled several government ministers concerned that Britain might be concentrating too great a proportion of its scientific resources on SDI while neglecting other areas of research.

There were also those within the government, including Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who were not enthusiastic about SDI and its possible destabilising

effects on East-West relations, the official said.

British military analyst Ronald Pretty said he believed the programme might lead to a renewed superpower arms race.

Pretty, editor of the Jane's Weapons Systems, wrote in the foreword to the 1985/86 edition: "If we ask how SDI is expected to deal with the threats from conventional strategic bombers, cruise missiles and in-atmosphere nuclear weapon delivery vehicles, the answer at this stage must surely be it probably will not."

There was also the danger that SDI systems would deal a fatal blow to the anti-ballistic missile treaty, leading to the unchecked growth in nuclear strategic weapons, Pretty said.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, in London to sign the agreement on British participation, dismissed fears that the system ultimately might not work,

"Our research in SDI is going extraordinarily well and joined, as we hope we will be, by the most creative skills among our friends. I believe we will progress far more rapidly than any of us believed possible," he told a news conference.

Much of the impetus for British participation in the programme came from the powerful defence industry lobby, which was quick to spot the commercial possibilities.

With Britain about to commit a large part of its defence budget to a major modernization of its independent nuclear deterrent through the acquisition of U.S. Trident missiles, the companies fear a squeeze on other contracts.

The Defence Ministry calculates that about 250,000 jobs are directly dependent on its procurement and equipment orders, which are certain to be cut drastically as the Trident programme gathers pace.

Clergyman recalls Khomeini's 14 years of exile in Iraq

By Tod Robberson
Reuter

NAJAF, Iraq — The holy city of Najaf provides one of the ironies of the Gulf war — for 14 years it was home to Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who now seeks the overthrow of the Iraqi regime.

"When he left here, nobody knew he would lead the Islamic revolution in Iran," said Ismail Abdul Majid, director of the 300-year-old Imam Ali Mosque, where Khomeini paid daily visits for prayer and meditation.

Najaf, which lies south of the capital Baghdad, has a population of 250,000 and is one of Islam's holiest cities. The mosque houses the gold-encrusted tomb of Imam Ali, the Prophet Mohammed's cousin and son-in-law who is regarded as spiritual founder of Shi'ite Islam.

"Khomeini lived here for 14 years, and our leaders took good care of him," Majid said. "He lived in a small house which the government gave him. People did not pay attention to him."

Khomeini stayed here virtually up to Iran's 1979 revolution. Today, with the Gulf war more than five years old, he says there can be no peace unless President Saddam Hussein is ousted.

"Even President Hussein welcomed the revolution in Iran. We thought Khomeini would help Iraq, but he took the side of the enemy," said Majid, whose remarks in Arabic were translated by a government official.

The information ministry official would not permit this reporter to visit Khomeini's former residence or speak to other Najaf inhabitants.

Asked how the people of Najaf now viewed Khomeini, Majid offered neither praise nor criticism. "He drank our water and ate our food. We are sorry that he left Iraq."

Majid, himself a clergyman who

wears the maroon brimless hat and green half-turban of a Shi'ite scholar, insisted Khomeini never had a following in Najaf, where he headed the theological college.

Khomeini came to Najaf in 1964 from Turkey. He was deported there by Iran for campaigning against the late Shah.

When the Shah began to liberalise politics in the late 1970s and the opposition movement built up, Khomeini issued instructions to his followers through tape-recordings which circulated clandestinely.

Tehran put pressure on Iraq to stop the flow of anti-Shah invective from Najaf, and Khomeini was forced to leave for France in October 1978. He made a triumphant return to Tehran on February 1, 1979.

Majid said Iraqis rejected the fundamentalist Islamic state Khomeini had established in Iran.

Majid said the prominence of veiled women clad in black abayas, or long, flowing robes, was not a sign of fundamentalist pressures within Najaf's predominantly Shi'ite Muslim population. He described it simply as "a matter of choice."

"Every man should do what he believes himself. It is not up to me to tell you how to dress or behave," he added.

Majid challenged Khomeini's motives for continuing the war with Iraq and said the Holy Koran, the book of Islam, strictly forbids Muslims to fight each other.

"He says this is a religious war, but it is not. It is a political war, and a religious man does not get involved in politics," Majid said.

Najaf bears no apparent scars from the war. Instead of the anti-aircraft batteries and military installations that dot the countryside outside most other Iraqi cities of this size, Najaf is surrounded by mud huts and vast desert fields where grazing camels easily outnumber vol-

LETTERS

Teletext

To the Editor

FROM Jordan Times of Dec. 8, I learn that JTV considers the introduction of Teletext. Studies of this kind may be interesting, but they ought to be done cautiously. Switzerland for instance went in for practical testing of Teletext two years ago at considerable costs. Results up to now have been rather deceiving. I think that conditions in your Kingdom with respect to Teletext resemble more the Swiss ones than those of France.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,
WILLI A. AEDIG
(from Bern/Switzerland)
Amra Hotel, Amman.

Romance rules OK on JTV

By J.H. Boteler

THIS WEEK sees the end of some series, the temporary return of an old one, and a very fine feature film. First of all though, we start with a mad outbreak of love and romance in this week's ration of:

Comedies

In *It's Your Move*, (tonight), there's a terrible mix-up between Norman and young Matthew over some love-letters which they both receive, (though why anyone should send Master Barton a billet-doux is very mysterious). In *Sunday's Chance In A Million*, the impending, and very welcome, reappearance of Tom and Alison are threatened somewhat when the loving couple pay a visit to the parents of the bride. Whether or not love is in the air for Sam and Daphne, stars of Monday's *Three Up, Two Down*, only time will tell, but if it is, they had better hurry up, since this is the final episode of the current series. It would seem that romance has got to Chindy, in Wednesday's *Three's Company* in a very big way, since it appears that she is pregnant (shock, horror), but as usual it is all a misunderstanding, in an episode entitled "And Baby Makes Four." Add to that Dr. Shindler breaking up with a young girl because he thinks her too young for him, in Thursday's *Emergency Room*, and Sara, in Friday's series of the same name, being in a quandary because she has fallen for some sort of midge, then it could be said that spring is in the air in a very big way, — or at least on Channel 6. The odd man out is *That's My Boy*, on Tuesday, in which this curious assortment of individuals decide to set themselves up in the fast food business, selling burgers.

Documentaries

The heady world of romance would have had an in-depth study with the 9th programme of the *Automania* series, called "Chariots Of Love," but this study of the automobile as an aid to courtship was probably considered rather too depraved (there are limits, you know), and any future showing of it is extremely doubtful, and so tonight's episode is the 10th in the 13 part series (or are JTV merely superstitious?) "Drive To The Limits" examines the constant war waged between the law and drivers. Not so much the perils of drunk drivers, (subject of several recent Channel 6 films, and two thoroughly depressing reports on last week's *News At Ten*), but rather the authorities tactics in combating road congestion. In Tokyo motorists are now charged every time they use the road (I remember it being claimed that the traffic scheme in Oxford, England, is altered on average twice a year solely in order to deter motorists from coming into the city). Also examined are the various forms of driving test around the world. Again in Japan, apart from the actual instruction, learners have to undergo a written test covering the rules of the road and basic car-mechanics, (much as in Jordan). In South Korea driving tests have become a public spectacle, with thousands of spectators crowding into a vast amphitheatre to watch. Way Of The Warrior has finished its run, and its slot this Sunday is being taken by an errant

episode of "Vista," having as its title "Hear Today, Gone Tomorrow," which is really not in the best of taste, since it's all about deafness, and the various cures available. Probably much more fun will be "The Long Chain," this Wednesday's offering from the absorbing *Connections* series. Included this week are the Dutch trading ships and routes, the struggle between Holland and England for Sea-trade, the spice routes, (will it visit Petra?), the pollution of the river Thames, the use of steel in ships, and weapons, lots and lots of lovely weapons. (But of course).

Detectives

This Monday sees the end of *Bergerac* (The present series, not the man himself). He is obviously in need of a rest though, since the murderer last week was uncovered by it being discovered that on the day she claimed to have arrived in Jersey there was an air-traffic controller's strike. Which late discovery showed up both herself and rugged Jim as more than a bit stupid. Her, since the hotel where she was staying would have been filled with red-faced, all-expenses paid company executives swearing at the receptionist, and him because his department, the Bureau des Enquêtes, even Francine was a bit slow on the uptake, working as she does in the tourist office in one of the most popular holiday resorts in the whole of the British Isles. Anyway, they had better wake their ideas up this week, since they are on the trail of French public Enemy Number One, and his elusive girlfriend. Much more relaxing is *Murder, She Wrote*, also on Monday. "Widow, Weep For Me" is the endearing title this time around. A female cousin of Aunt Jessica is killed, after receiving stacks of threatening letters. Don't bother about actually trying to work out whodunnit, simply identify the one character who is not an official suspect, and you will have found the villain. It works every time. (At least it did last week). Mysterious letters signed "Anon" also figure prominently in *Remington Steele* on Wednesday, only this time they are received by a female reporter, who promptly hires our heroes to find the correspondent. Sensible lass. And so to Friday and an episode, not of *Magnus*, but of "Simon And Simon." These are two brothers who operate as a team of private eyes, and can be described as a rather stupid version of Starksy and Hutch, which is not very complimentary, but considering that they made their TV debut in an episode of *Magnus*, in which even he managed to out-think them, it is thoroughly deserved. Friday's episode is entitled "Art For Arthur's Sake," and is concerned with underhand dealings involving a price-less painting. So much for the cops and robbers.

Drama

This is very well served this week, and ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous. I know in which category I would place Sunday's *Love Boat*, but you can make up your own minds. This week provides a truly gut-wrenching

tear-jerker. Little Toby and his Grandma are taking a cruise. Suddenly grandma falls ill. Toby runs wailing to the doctor, and between sobs announces that grandma is dying. Doctor tumbles along to the cabin, and makes an unfortunate discovery. The person who is really ill is Toby. While a million humps rise in a million throats, Doc. prescribes two aspirins and twenty-four hours attendance at the sick bed by the ship's string quartet. Which will be fine, just as long as he manages to keep the odious Vicki away. Tuesday has episode four of that truly awesome series, *The Secret Of The Black Dragon*. This programme is becoming absolutely mind-boggling. After the last two fun-filled episodes, I think I am beginning to get the message: Russia is A Bad Place. True, whereas episode two had such delights as a floating raft absolutely choc-a-bloc with corpses dangling from gibbets, (hanging room only), and a severed head impaled on a stake and galloping around the frozen wastes tied to a horse, last week made do with showing some luckless individual getting his hat nailed to his forehead. Even so this programme cannot be doing much good to the Russian tourist trade. The characters continue to astound in all their myriad complexities. I am unsure as to exactly what has befallen Father Pereira. (I missed the opening quarter-of-an-hour last week), but I am very happy to see that the romance between Wolf and Nadja is still going strong; he, muttering strange oaths sotto voce, her a hapless slave in the clutches of yet another band of uncouth brigands. Admittedly she is a very desirable piece, but surely she's getting rather shop-worn by now? Wolf should do as his father does, and have no truck with merely physical matters. Week two saw him shrug off the slight inconvenience of a broken leg as an irritating bore, and last week saw him, though nine-tenths frozen solid, take only the briefest sip of a heady and restorative portico brewed by the local Eskimos. (Eskimos in Russia? Surely some mistake here?). He also has the pick of the dialogue, as this impassioned line from last week demonstrates: "Behind us — the gulls. Before us — what lies before us?" Well, if you really want to know mate, I'll tell you: China, and that blessed river you keep harping on about. Doubtless what we have already witnessed in torture and methods of persuasion are about as heavy as a slap on the wrist compared to the delights for the next three weeks.

Tonight

It's Your Move8.30
Automania9.00
Feature Film: *Aces High*10.20

Sunday

Chance In A Million8.30
Vista9.10
Love Boat10.20

Monday

Three Up, Two Down8.30
Bergerac9.10
Murder, She Wrote10.20

Tuesday

That's My Boy8.30
The Secret Of The Black Dragon9.10
Feature Film: *Death Cruise*10.20

Wednesday

Three's Company8.30
Connections9.10
Remington Steele10.20

Thursday

Emergency Room8.30
An Inspector Calls (Act two)9.00
Varieties9.30
Feature Film: *A Great American Tragedy*10.20

Friday

Sara8.30
Missing From Home9.10
Simon And Simon10.20



Would you walk out on her? Missing from Home, Friday at 9:10

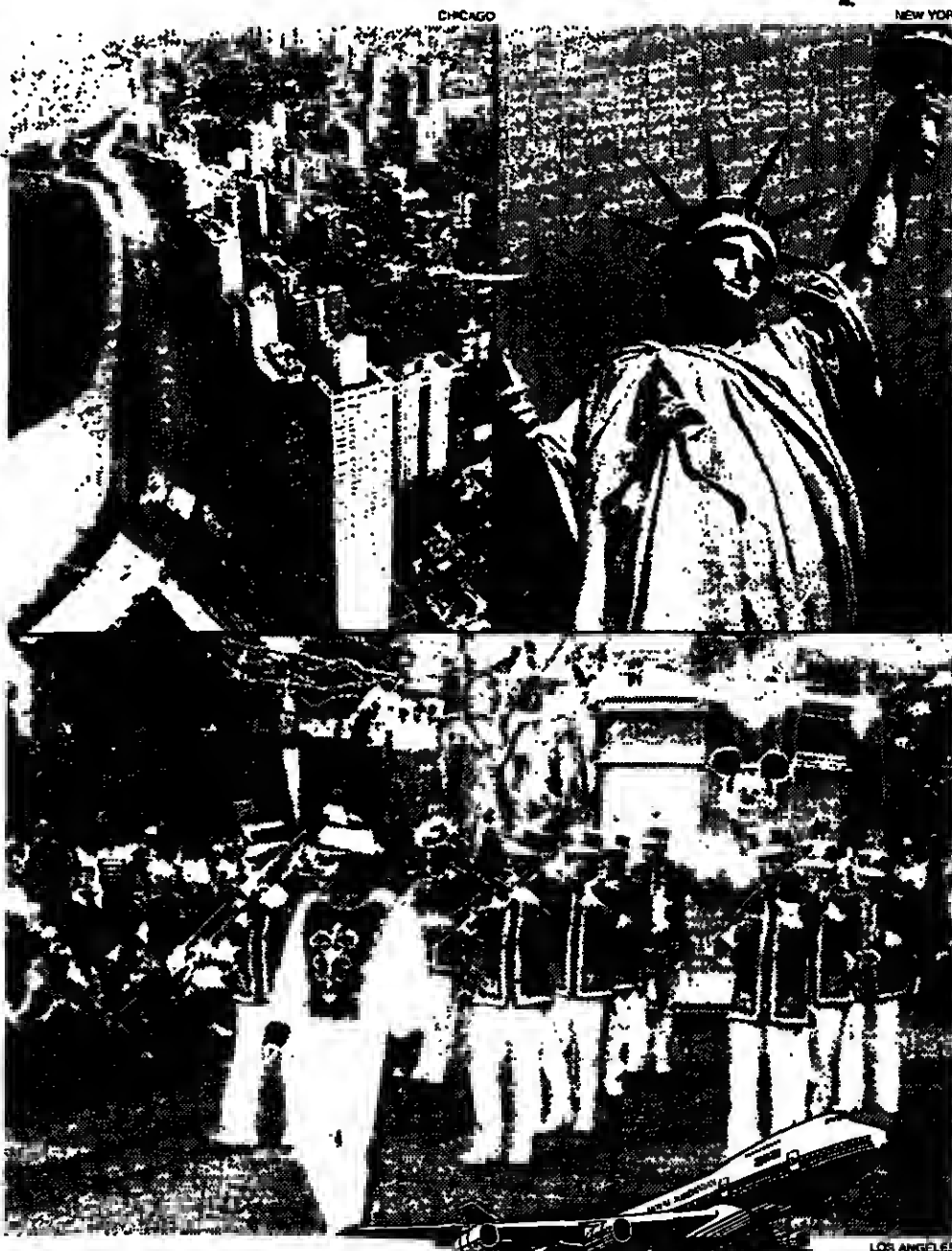
care and expense she enjoyed. It suggested a serious lack of perspective. The U.S.A.F. is, of course, not generally neglectful of the well-being of its personnel, which cannot be said of their English equivalents in World War I, which is the subject of tonight's film, "Aces High." Made in 1976, it is a very moving and at times quite horrifying story of how young flyers were needlessly sacrificed. (At one point a request for parachutes is refused on the grounds that they would lower the resolve of the pilots.) Starring Malcolm McDowell, Simon Ward, Christopher Plummer, Sir John Gielgud, Trevor Howard and Ray Milland, it is a searing refutation of the myth of the glorious life of the flying ace of that war, and should not be missed. Tuesday's offering is called "Death Cruise," and apart from telling you it is a 1974 made-for-TV movie starring Kate Jackson, (of "Scarecrow and Mrs King" fame), and Celeste Holm, I know nothing more about it; it sounds fairly predictable though. Thursday's film is another made-for-TV effort, this time from 1972, and stars George Kennedy and Vera Miles as a successful aerospace engineer and his wife who have to come to terms with his losing his job after twenty years. It is called "A Great American Tragedy."

Due to deadlines I am writing this before Act One of "An Inspector Calls" on Thursday, but that should have proved highly embarrassing for Mr. Birling and his daughter Sheila, and Act Two will show other members of this ill-fated dinner party as lacking in the proper care and consideration and sense of responsibility for others, which of course is the main moral of not only this play, but all of Priestley's work. (And this is as good a moment as any to respectfully mark the passing of both Philip Larkin and Robert Graves). Finally, Friday, and the last episode of *Missing From Home*, which sees Alison at last meeting up with her erring husband, over a dinner table. If I was her I'd take a steak knife to him.

Feature Films

Before dealing with this week, I would like to say something about last Tuesday's "Why Me?" This was the true story of how a woman's face and beauty were restored to her after a car crash, and a long series of operations. Now I don't begrudge the lady her eventual good fortune, and happiness, but one thing I did find a bit disturbing. The operations were carried out in an American Air Force Hospital, which was her catallumet, in 1968 and 1969. At that time the Vietnam War was at its height, and thousands of young airman were returning home, a lot of them with injuries as bad as, if not worse, than hers. I very much doubt if they got the attention,

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Aid today, but what tomorrow?

By Dr. Farouk Al Baz

IF A picture is worth a thousand words, a televised report is worth a million. Films of the drought disasters in Ethiopia, the Sudan, Mozambique, and other African countries are heart-wrenching. Almost as disturbing are the perceptions of cause and effect that pervade most comments on the situation.

Many experts would have us believe that somehow the people involved bear responsibility for their misfortune. We are repeatedly told that it is the nomads in these parched lands that ruin the environment. They misuse the land, we are told, chop down the trees and allow their animals to overgraze. Thus, the place becomes a desert.

Most of us are left with the impression that the desert is man-made. This misconception is typical of the simple-mindedness of blaming all the ills of the earth on mankind. If this misconception were simply naive and rather harmless, it would not matter. However, accepting it may be counter-productive, because it has two very dangerous implications:

It suggests that the people that live in the dry parts of the world ruin their environment because they do not understand it. With this assumption goes the arrogant notion that academics and development planners know the desert better than local inhabitants do. It insinuates that our new technologies and scientific techniques can surely fix it.

In reality, deserts form because of scarcity of rain. The term "desert" came to us from the ancient

Egyptian hieroglyph pronounced "tesert," which means abandoned or forsaken. This idea correctly implied that today's deserts used to be kinder places in which there was life.

Once there was rain. Then the clouds gradually disappeared. These places dried up and were deserted by plants, animals and man. The deserts are where they are because of the rhythmic patterns of global circulation of air masses in the earth's atmosphere, which are fueled by energy from the sun.

My studies of the records of water levels of Lake Nasser behind the Aswan High Dam show levels of water were dangerously low in 1973 and 1984 following periods of African droughts in 1968-1971 and 1980-1983. This corresponds with the period of highest sunspot activity. Furthermore, both periods were followed by dangerous floods in 1975 and 1985, at the point of lowest sunspot activity.

This cycle is superimposed on a rhythm of alternating wet and dry climates in the desert, which are related to global changes in the Earth's atmosphere and may be related to the ice ages. In today's African deserts I have encountered bones of animals, ostrich eggshell fragments, as well as human-fashioned hand tools, milling and grinding stones and pot fragments.

Today's misery in the arid lands of Ethiopia and Mozambique is caused by an enduring drought.

The answer is not "aid projects" that result in setting of the nomads around overcrowded towns, as happened following the drought in

the Sahel a decade ago. Take the people out of their element, and they will be unable to fully use their skills. Force them to settle in a place other than that of their own choice, and they will sit and wait for you to solve all their problems. Grain will only feed the people today.

Rain in the geologic past left behind vast areas of arable land that may be hidden by sheets of sand. Some of that rainwater seeped through the rock to be stored in giant underground aquifers.

NASA's space shuttle is useful in this area. In November 1981 a shuttle-borne radar instrument unraveled the terrain beneath the sands in the southern reaches of the western desert of Egypt. In an area that is now bone-dry without a single blade of grass, the radar revealed ancient river courses as wide as the Nile valley. Nearby a region was selected to drill for water. Eight wells were dug and all brought fresh water from depths between 25 and 250 feet. Today there is an experimental farm that may be the nucleus for a vast agricultural settlement in this parched land.

In October 1984 the large-format camera developed for Nasa obtained high-resolution photographs of Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan showing clearly the migration of people from Ethiopia into Somalia and their refugee camps. They showed the best routes to encampments, and they showed the areas with potential ground-water resources. It is this kind of information that may make a difference in the long-term resolution of drought in Africa.

Second, we should study the

ways of desert nomads and try to reinstate their age-old practices and desert-born wisdom. Nomads roam the land followed by their meagre herds not because they are a restless lot. They do so because theirs is the only way of using the scarcest and most inconsistent of resources: rain. In the desert, when it rains, it does so in one small place and not in others. And when the occasional rain clouds return, it rains in some other place. Desert dwellers have developed a remarkable sensitivity to such happenings.

Third, we should accept the cyclic pattern of mother nature's moods. Part of the harvest in years of abundance should be stored for the lean years.

There is one more important human lesson to be learned in coping with drought and famine. We must require the harsh but fruitful policy of making the afflicted people work rather than sit and wait for "manna from heaven."

There is nothing more humiliating and spirit-breaking to humans than being herded into refugee camps. While in these encampments, these people should at least be made to work to give them mental strength, which gradually translates into physical strength. Above all, work restores human dignity.

Living with the desert and its changing moods was done for thousands of years. It can be done again, and we have the opportunity to lead the way. However, if we cannot understand the desert, we should not embark on projects of questionable value and should save our aid funds — The Guardian.

S.Americans kept apart in World Cup first round

MEXICO CITY (R) — South American nations will be kept apart in the first round groups of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, the International Football Federation (FIFA) has said.

West German Hermann Neuberger, chairman of the organising committee, said the draw would ensure that Brazil and the three non-seeded South Americans — Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina — could meet only in the later knockout stages.

He was speaking at a press conference to spell out how the draw would be organised here on Sunday (1800 GMT).

Neuberger also revealed for the first time where all six seeded nations would play.

— Holders Italy, Puebla (Group "A").

— Hosts Mexico, Mexico City/Toluca (Group "B").

— European Champions France, Leon/Irapuato (Group "C").

— Brazil, Guadalajara (Group "D").

— West Germany, runners-up in 1982, Queretaro (Group "E").

— Poland, third in 1982, Monterrey (Group "F").

The remaining 18 finalists will be placed in three pots.

Pot one will hold the three other South Americans plus what FIFA considers the top Europeans — England, Spain and the Soviet Union.

Pot two will contain the less-experienced sides in World Cup terms — Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, South Korea, Canada and Denmark.

Pot three will comprise the rest

of the Europeans — Belgium, Hungary, Bulgaria, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Scotland.

Neuberger said the draw would be made neither crosswise along the groups, nor vertically down one group at a time.

Under a complicated format, a preliminary draw will determine which pot will be dealt with first.

That pot will be emptied one country at a time, and a simultaneous draw from a separate pot will decide the group in which each of the six nations will play and in which row of that particular section.

To prevent Brazil facing Argentina, Paraguay or Uruguay in the opening round, the first European team to emerge from pot one would be placed in the three-times' champions' group, Neuberger said.

Becker named sportsman of the year

BONN (R) — Wimbledon Champion Boris Becker was named West German sportsman of the year by the country's sportswriters.

In July, Becker, then 17, became the youngest winner of a men's singles Grand Slam title and the first unseeded player to win Wimbledon.

His sensational victory transformed West Germany into a tennis-crazy nation and unleashed a wave of adulation popularly known as "Becker-fever".

The Davis Cup team, led by Becker, which plays Sweden in the final next week in Munich, was chosen as team of the year.

Becker received the trophy at a ceremony Thursday night in Baden-Baden.

Ban lifted on English club friendly matches

MEXICO CITY (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) has lifted a ban on English clubs playing friendly matches in Europe, a FIFA spokesman said Friday.

Guido Tognoni told Reuters that FIFA's Executive Committee, headed by the world body's President Joao Havelange of Brazil, had taken the decision late Thursday night.

It followed a written submission from English Football Association (FA) Secretary Ted Croker.

FIFA and the European Football Union (UEFA) imposed indefinite bans on English clubs last June after riots at the European Cup Final on May 29 between England's Liverpool and Juventus of Italy in Brussels resulted in 39 deaths.

FIFA, who have jurisdiction over friendly matches played in Europe, lifted their ban on English clubs playing outside Europe the following month. But UEFA's exclusion of English sides from their three club competitions remains in force.

FIFA sources said they believed there was "a good chance" the UEFA ban could be lifted in time for next season if violence is kept under control in England this year.

Tognoni said Havelange and the Executive Committee had

taken into consideration the fact that the FA had taken "a number of serious measures to fight violence at soccer stadiums."

Croker, who sat outside the hotel room for more than two hours while the committee met, told Reuters: "Obviously I'm delighted. It's a step in the right direction. In my submission, I told FIFA that we ourselves (the FA) intended to exercise a strict power of veto if we saw any danger of violence at any matches contemplated."

"We in England have seen a good year in terms of football violence and I think FIFA took this into account."

England Team Manager Bobby

Robson, here with Croker and FA Chairman Bert Millichip for Sunday's World Cup draw, said: "I'm delighted. English players, especially the younger ones, need the experience that European football gives them."

Asked about the continuing UEFA ban, Croker indicated that the FA would ask next year that it be lifted. "We won't be approaching UEFA about this for another month or two, until our season is further on," he said.

"But if we continue with a good violence-free season, we will ask our friends in Europe that these very, very severe sanctions be lifted."

Injured Austrian skier improves slightly

VAL D'ISERE, France (R) — Austrian skier Christine Putz, in a coma after a high-speed crash in a women's World Cup Downhill Race Thursday, has improved slightly, team doctor Sigurd Wagner said Friday.

Dr. Wagner said it could take several days before the 19-year-old skier recovered consciousness after her 100 kph crash.

"She is a little better and has shown some reactions," he told Reuters.

Putz injured her skull and suffered severe concussion but no internal injuries, he said. She had stitches to heal injuries to her tongue and lips.

Dr. Wagner accompanied the Innsbruck skier to the Sablos Hospital in Grenoble, 170 kilometres from here, where she was

placed in the neuro-surgical unit on artificial respiration.

Christine Putz, 19, crashed in the opening Women's Downhill of the season, won by Michaela Gery of West Germany.

Putz landed on her head as she came out of the "compression" section near the foot of the 2,194-metre course, and was taken off the track by helicopter.

Kraig Sourbeer, 20, who was preparing for a World Cup Men's Downhill on Saturday, twisted in mid-air and landed on his head after taking a jump near the top of Santa Cristina's Salsong Course.

The U.S. team's strength Coach Sam Varnier said the injury was not expected to end Sourbeer's career. "He will be fine. It's not very serious and he is in good spirits," he said.

50 hurt in Bangladesh soccer violence

DHAKA (R) — At least 50 people, some of them policemen trying to restore order, were injured when rival fans attacked each other with stones and knives during a soccer match, police said Friday.

The match between local Mohammedan Sporting Club and Ishwardi was abandoned Thursday at Chittagong after police failed to stop the fighting. The referee fled the field.

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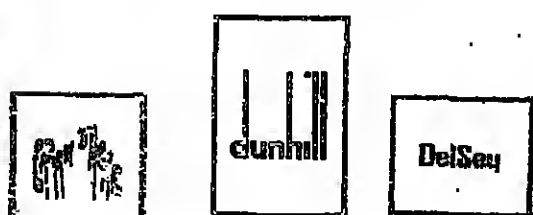
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NOTICE
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION
TENDER NO. 16/85

The last date for receipt of the above tender was originally stipulated as 31.12.1985. Several requests have been received from prospective bidders to defer the closing date.

In deference to the wishes of the prospective bidders Aqaba Railway Corporation has since decided to extend the closing date beyond 31.12.1985. The notification about the revised closing date will follow. Prospective bidders are advised to withhold submission of their tenders in the meanwhile.

Mardi Qatamlin
Director General
Aqaba Railway Corporation

The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.

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- 1- Raising of Salt pen dikes by 1.5m, total length of 23 km.
- 2- Raising the main brine canal of total length 4.5 km including raising the canal bridge by 1.5m.
- 3- Installing of sheet piles for an existing channel, estimated area of piles about 260 m².
- 4- Excavation works and construction of new dikes, for about 700m in length.

The materials to be used for dikes raising, raising canal embankments and constructing new dikes, shall be gravel of various grades and earth fill material volume to be placed is approximately (1.06) million m³.

Tender documents are available at Arab Potash Co. Offices in Shmeisani, Amman, Tel: (666165/6) at non-refundable payment of JD (50).

Tender documents include prequalification form which shall be completed by the tenderer and delivered with the tender in a separate package, information provided in this form shall be evaluated to select qualified contractors whose tenders only will be considered.

Tenders should be submitted not later than 12 noon of Jan. 25th 1986 at Arab Potash Company Offices in Shmeisani.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Philippines will be located at Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles, (besides the American Ambassador's Residence, effective 15 December 1985). Its new telephone number is 645161.

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NATO hails East-West dialogue

Western alliance stresses commitment to arms control

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO foreign ministers Friday hailed a new East-West dialogue and stressed their commitment to progress in arms control.

In a communique approved at Friday's final session of a two-day meeting, the ministers said: "Encouraging developments have taken place in East-West relations since our meeting in Lisbon in June."

They welcomed in particular the U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva last month and said it marked "an important step in our efforts to develop a realistic and constructive dialogue with the countries of the East."

"We hope that this will lead to improved relations, more extensive contacts, including regular high level meetings, and broad cooperation on the full range of East-West questions," the text, obtained by Reuters, said.

The communique contained no endorsement of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) space weapons programme. It noted that the various U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva were aimed at preventing an arms race in space.

Instead, the ministers said: "We strongly support U.S. efforts in all three areas of negotiation."

The communique said the continuing buildup of Soviet nuclear

and conventional arms remained a major allied concern, but the document's tone was generally conciliatory.

The ministers endorsed the idea of an interim agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, separated from the superpower talks on strategic and space weapons, and endorsed the goal of a 50-per-cent cut in U.S. and Soviet nuclear arms, appropriately added.

At the meeting, several West European ministers told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Western public opinion would expect first concrete results in arms control from the next U.S.-Soviet summit, expected in June.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti gave his view on the subject Friday morning, telling reporters: "Many of us said that what is important now is that the next summit should not only confirm the positive climate but also achieve some concrete result proving that the method is good."

Mr. Shultz warned ministers Thursday that public expectations should not be amply allowed to run out of control. He noted that

wide differences remained in the two sides' arms negotiating positions.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, voicing a widely-held European view, said it would not be enough for the two leaders to end their next summit merely saying for a second time that the atmosphere was good.

"There has to be more," he said.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe came closest to spelling out allied hopes for an arms control solution to the central U.S.-Soviet dispute over President Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence programme, officials said.

He said there would have to be guarantees of greater predictability in the development of anti-missile defences if Moscow was to agree to deep cuts in its strategic offensive arsenal.

Sir Geoffrey suggested the superpowers should clarify and strengthen the provisions of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which severely limited the development and testing of such defensive systems.

Washington and Moscow have accused each other of violating the treaty and there has been a fierce debate within the Reagan administration on what the treaty allows and whether to loosen U.S.

observance of it.

The NATO ministers stressed that East-West relations should not be confined to arms control and should include improved ties with smaller East European states, trade, human contacts and a dialogue on regional disputes.

Several European ministers welcomed the fact that Mr. Shultz was travelling after this meeting to Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia next week.

The NATO ministers issued a declaration of political intent to enhance arms cooperation Thursday, stressing the need to eliminate wasteful duplication in defence spending.

Mr. Shultz warned there would be enormous pressure from Congress for spending cuts under new legislation to balance the U.S. budget by 1991 but noted growing congressional support for joint arms projects with NATO allies.

Alliance defence programmes would have to be seen to be efficient in order to escape the spending axe, he said.

A senior NATO official conceded that the arms cooperation statement contained no truly specific measures.

However, NATO is to study common funding of research and development for new weapons and ways of improving long-term armaments planning to enable member states to work together.

Marcos, opposition confident of victory in elections

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Ferdinand Marcos and his opponent Corason Aquino, have begun the Philippine presidential campaign saying they are confident of victory. But doubt remained Friday whether the election would be held.

Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza filed Thursday a petition asking the supreme court to dismiss 11 complaints trying to stop the special Feb. 7 presidential election called by Mr. Marcos to prove he still has public support.

The court has scheduled a hearing on all the petitions next Tuesday. Mr. Marcos opponents have said they believe Mr. Marcos may influence the 13-member court to stop the election if he believes he cannot win.

Mr. Mendoza said, in his petition, the so-called "snap election" is justified because of an "anticipated vacancy" in the presidency. Mr. Marcos has announced he will vacate the presidency when the election winner, which he expects to be himself, is sworn in.

The petitions against the election were filed mostly by Mr. Marcos opponents, who say they want the election but also believe it is unconstitutional.

Mr. Marcos told supporters Thursday, after selecting mayor-elect Arturo Tolentino as his running mate, that none of about 100 surveys that have been conducted shows the opposition winning.

"I do not, of course, expect them to win in the coming election," the president said.

The Philippine News Agency reported that since formation of the Marcos-Tolentino ticket on Tuesday, Mr. Marcos has been meeting with leaders of his ruling New Society Movement (NSM) to end some disputes among them.

Some newspaper columnists have said there was resentment among Marcos supporters at the selection of Tolentino, who has been openly critical of the president, while they have been loyal.

Mrs. Aquino and former Senator Salvador Laurel, who gave up his own presidential candidacy to become the opposition vice presidential pick, opened their campaign in Batangas province south of Manila.

"I see victory," said Mrs. Aquino before setting out.

She also said Mr. Marcos is still her "No. 1 suspect" in the 1983 assassination of her husband, former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

"Why did I enter politics?" she asked one gathering. "Because I want to continue the fight of Ninoy and I want to restore our rights and our freedoms."

She said she seeks justice but not revenge "for all the victims of Marcos."

Relations between government and church sank to a low point in 1983 when Pope John Paul was jeered by Sandinista militants during a speech here.

The Catholic Church hierarchy and the Sandinistas have been at odds over the government's support for the so-called "popular church" and Liberation Theology, which sees no contradiction between Christianity and Marxist revolution.

A high-ranking government official said Thursday any church workers detained were being questioned about political rather than religious activities.

"They are not told to stop practising religion," Victor Tirado, a member of the nine-man directorate of the ruling National Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN), told a news conference.

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U.S. military crash shocks base community

FORT CAMPBELL, Kentucky (R) — The deaths of 250 soldiers of the "Screaming Eagles" of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division in a plane crash in Newfoundland have stunned the communities surrounding Fort Campbell where the troops were based.

"People are weeping in the streets and in the stores because even if the people didn't know anyone on the plane, they all knew families at the fort," said Mary Dee of the Kentucky New Era newspaper.

"The soldiers will be missed and I love each of them dearly," said Maj.-Gen. Burton Patrick, commander of the 101st Airborne, which was involved in the D-Day landings in World War II and was the last U.S. combat unit to leave Vietnam ten years ago.

Flags flew at half-mast amid the Christmas decorations around the sprawling base near the Kentucky-Tennessee state line after Thursday's crash in Gander that killed 247 men and three women of the 101st Airborne.

It was America's worst military air disaster.

The chartered DC-8 crashed on take-off on the last leg of a flight carrying them home for Christmas leave after six months of duty with the international peace-keeping force in the Sinai. The plane's eight crew also died.

In nearby Hopkinsville, Kentucky and Clarksville, Tennessee, whose civic lives are intertwined with Fort Campbell, news of the tragedy brought outpouring of sympathy.

"The cohesion and comradeship of our people is like still water — it runs deep," Gen. Patrick said.

The general vowed that the division would continue its mission in the Middle East.

"We will lick our wounds, help those families in grief, reconstitute our forces and continue the mission," he said. "Each of those soldiers who lost their lives in Newfoundland wouldn't want it any other way."

Relatives of the crash victims had been due to greet their loved ones at a ceremony at the base.

But the trumpets remained silent as officers who planned to extend commendations instead had to break the news of the crash to widows, and their children.

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Base Spokesman Maj. James Gleisberg said the families took the news "as well as can be expected." Next-of-kin would be notified as quickly as possible and family assistance efforts would be expedited, he added.

Worst disaster ever

The deaths of 250 U.S. soldiers in the crash of the chartered jet in Newfoundland was the worst military air disaster in U.S. history, a Defence Department spokesman said.

"I don't know of anything that we can recall here of this magnitude involving military personnel," the spokesman, Robert Sims, told reporters.

"Yes," he replied when asked if that included wartime or peacetime.

The Defence Department launched an independent probe of the crash but said there was no indication that "hostile action" had downed the DC-8. White House Spokesman Larry Speakes also said there was no evidence of foul play.

There were no survivors of the crash, which also killed the plane's eight-man civilian crew.

Mr. Sims said the worst military-related disaster which he could recall prior to Thursday was the crash of a U.S. C-5 military aircraft shortly after take-off from Saigon on April 4, 1975.

Most of the 155 persons killed in that crash were Vietnamese orphans being evacuated from Saigon before it fell to Communist forces. Several U.S. military nurses also died, but more than half of the 330 persons aboard survived.

Mr. Sims said: "We don't know the precise cause of today's crash but we are going to try to find out independently" of civil investigations.

"Through official and other reports that we have received, we have nothing to indicate there was hostile action and nothing to indicate there was any explosion before the crash," he said.

He said checks were being made in Cologne, West Germany, where the airliner made one refuelling stop en route to Gander from Cairo, to see who might have had access to the aircraft and whether any additional passengers had boarded.

Two million reportedly threatened by Delhi plant

NEW DELHI (R) — A Delhi chemical plant where a gas leak killed one person and injured about 350 others last week poses a threat to about two million people in the Indian capital, experts said Friday.

Storage, maintenance and safety measures at the privately-owned Shriram Foods and Fertiliser Industries plant were totally unsafe, a committee of three environmental experts appointed by India's supreme court said in its report.

The report said vent scrubbers which could neutralise leaks of chlorine gas operated far below the capacity of the two 20 and 25 tonne tanks at the factory, situated in densely populated north Delhi.

The 37-year-old tanks were not monitored for moisture to prevent corrosion caused by wet chlorine, it said.

It said that under current maintenance conditions a fresh leak could occur, affecting about two million people in a 10-kilometre radius around the factory.

The experts said it was not possible to eliminate all risks in chemical plants and recommended that the factory should be moved in the interests of safety.

The Dec. 4 leak was caused by oil leaking from a ruptured tank. The oil, used to make sulphuric acid, turned to white gas when workers sprayed water on it to contain the leak.

The fumes triggered mass panic a day after the first anniversary of the methyl isocyanate leak from a Union Carbide plant which killed 2,500 people in the central Indian city of Bhopal.

Labour Minister Tangaturi Anjaiah told parliament earlier this week that the government has launched a major review of industries using dangerous chemicals to prevent a repetition of the Bhopal disaster.

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Pravda: SDI will cause collapse in arms accords

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet daily Pravda says U.S. plans for a space-based missile defence, if implemented, will cause existing arms control accords to collapse and send the superpower military balance into chaos.

An editorial in Friday's edition said the Soviet Union could if necessary produce a cheaper and more effective version of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), popularly known as "Star Wars."

The Communist Party daily said SDI would make nuclear weapons more dangerous by providing them with a defensive shield in space.

"As a result, existing treaty mechanisms curbing the arms race, primarily the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty, will collapse and the present-day strategic balance will therefore be reduced to strategic chaos," Pravda said.

It said SDI would make the arms race uncontrollable. "Mistrust among countries will grow and their security will diminish accordingly," it said.

Since Mr. Reagan's summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month in Geneva, the Soviet media have cited "Star Wars" as the single biggest obstacle to a U.S.-Soviet arms agreement. Soviet officials say SDI would violate the 1972 ABM treaty.

Britain and the United States have signed a formal understanding on British participation in the project, and West German officials have said the document could ease participation by German companies.

Pravda said hopes were expressed in the two nations "that after the Geneva summit meeting an impetus will be given to the talks on nuclear and space arms," and asserted that taking part in Star Wars contradicts these hopes.

"These are sober and reasonable assessments. But they also bind," the paper said. "They bind those making them at least not to take any action that could create impediments to the talks... and not to water down the existing constraints on the arms race."

Meanwhile Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday the Soviet Union had completed dismantling installations for new SS-20 missiles deployed in response to NATO cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe, TASS news agency reported.

It said Mr. Gorbachev told Louis Mermaz, visiting head of the French National Assembly, of the move and he added that "hopes for a possible change for the better in international relations are picking up" as a result of his meeting last month with President Reagan.

"A mechanism which appeared so well in the 1970s, East-West dialogue, is again being set in motion," he said according to TASS.

Mr. Gorbachev said during a visit to France last October that new SS-20s had been withdrawn from service and that their fixed installations would be dismantled within two months.

He said then that the Soviet Union still had 243 SS-20 missiles in the European zone.

Soviet casualties reported in Kampuchean rebel attacks

BANGKOK (R) — Kampuchean guerrillas said Friday they killed a Soviet advisor and 174 Vietnamese soldiers in western Siem Reap town in their biggest attack of the year.

A Khmer Rouge radio broadcast monitored in Bangkok said a Vietnamese brigadier and two regimental commanders were also killed in the attacks last Sunday and Monday.

Two Soviet advisors and 78 Vietnamese soldiers were wounded

and three tanks and hundreds of tonnes of ammunition and medical supplies were destroyed, it added.

The report could not be confirmed independently.

The Chinese-backed insurgents said the attacks were carried out against Vietnam's 479th Front Headquarters in the former Siem Reap college.

Vietnamese reinforcements were attacked at nearby Kok Chan village on Tuesday.

Rebel land mine injures soldier in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A land mine believed set by anti-apartheid guerrillas damaged an armoured troop carrier on a lonely farm road near where insurgents planted a batch of mines two weeks ago, the army said.

The blast Thursday wounded one soldier aboard the troop carrier, a transporter that was involved in trying to sweep the rural region free of mines that killed two people in late November.

Meanwhile, newspapers said the bullet-riddled bodies of three black men were found Thursday in black townships around Krugersdorp, where a week-old black consumer boycott of white shops has crippled business.

A boycott committee member said the reasons for the killings were not known, but they seemed related to the "tense and volatile situation in the townships — brought about by the boycott."

Police headquarters spokesmen were unavailable for comment at midday.

The Johannesburg Star also reported it had confirmed the detention of Jabu Ngwenya, head of the Soweto Consumer Boycott Committee, on Thursday.

The "Black Christmas" boycott has slashed business around Johannesburg and Pretoria to protest the state of emergency and the use of troops in the townships.

The American National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla force fighting to destroy apartheid, said it planted those mines which killed two people in four detonations. The army located and defused another three mines.

All of the mines were planted in far northern South Africa, close to the border with Zimbabwe. Foreign Minister R.F. Botha fired tensions in the region when he blamed Zimbabwe for harbouring ANC guerrillas and said South African forces would cross Zimbabwe's frontier to chase down suspects.

Zimbabwe took this as a threat that South Africa planned an invasion of its northern neighbour.

Authorities said the latest mine did not appear to have been newly planted. They said they believed it was among the mines left by the ANC in late November because there were no fresh tracks leading away from where the troop carrier blew up.

The mines have represented an escalation by the ANC at a time when South Africa is deploying its over-taxed police and its army in black townships to try to end the 15 months of protests that have killed nearly 900 people.

Guerrillas of the ANC had never before used land mines, choosing instead to set off car bombs in the cities, leave magnet (lump) mines in government offices and mount occasional commando strikes.

used "various forms of intimidation" against priests and church members.

Diplomatic sources said the criticisms were certain to strain already tense relations between the Catholic Church hierarchy and the Sandinistas who seized power after a popular revolution in 1979.

Hundreds of Nicaraguans have been detained briefly and questioned since President Daniel Ortega strengthened state of emergency laws in October citing an increased threat from U.S.-backed rebels.

A high-ranking government official said Thursday any church workers detained were being questioned about political rather than religious activities.

"They are not told to stop practising religion," Victor Tirado, a member of the nine-man directorate of the ruling National Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN), told a news conference.

The Catholic Church hierarchy and the Sandinistas have been at odds over the government's support for the so-called "popular church" and Liberation Theology, which sees no contradiction between Christianity and Marxist revolution.

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Bishops accuse Nicaragua of abuses

MANAGUA (R) — Six Roman Catholic bishops from Central America accused Nicaragua's government of persecuting the church and mistreating detainees.

The bishops, including Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, issued a statement here charging the Sandinista government with widespread detentions of church workers.